



Waynesboro City Council Agenda Briefing

Meeting Date:	July 27, 2020	Staff/Council Member(s): Cameron S. McCormick, CPA, Director of Finance, James Shaw II, Deputy City Manager, Mike Hamp, City Manager
Agenda Item #	5	
Ordinance#		
Department:	Finance/City Manager’s Office	
Subject:	COVID -19 Response –Extension of Relief Concerning Utility Payments and Disconnection of Utilities	

Background: On June 22, 2020, the City Council adopted an Emergency Ordinance Regarding Utility Payments During the COVID-19 Pandemic setting penalties and late fees on such utilities at \$0 and 0%, as well as forgoing disconnection procedures for non-payment, until the end of July 2020. Council’s action did not waive or forgive charges for utilities and any charges remaining unpaid once this ordinance expires remain subject to interest and penalty. Currently there are approximately 700 accounts, totaling approximately \$195,000, eligible for disconnection. The City currently serves approximately 8,900 active accounts. City staff seeks guidance from City Council whether to extend this temporary measure of relief. An ordinance has been prepared for Council’s consideration if Council wishes to extend the relief.

City Manager’s Recommendation: Receive briefing and provide guidance. If Council desires to extend relief from penalty and interest through September and begin the cut-off process in August, introduce and consider the attached ordinance.

Suggested Motion(s): If Council wishes introduce and consider adopting the attached ordinance

Attachments: Ordinance

ORDINANCE 2020-



**A THIRD EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
REGARDING UTILITY PAYMENTS DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the City Manager has declared a local emergency during the current COVID-19 Pandemic (the “Emergency”);

WHEREAS, widespread closures, unemployment, social distancing, and Executive Orders 51, 53, and 55, 61, and 65 have created excess burdens upon the citizens of the City;

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to treat all citizens equally and provide additional time for citizens to pay certain utilities without penalty, interest, and collection activities during the Emergency;

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the City Council adopted An Emergency Ordinance Regarding Utility Payments During the COVID-19 Pandemic setting penalties and late fees on such utilities at \$0.00, and interest at 0%, until the end of July 2020; and

WHEREAS, due to the continuing Emergency, the City Council desires to further extend the suspension of penalties, late fees, and interest on utilities provided by the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA THAT:

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions in the City Code or the City of Waynesboro Utility Policy/Procedure, the penalty shall be \$0.00, the late fee shall be \$0.00, the administrative fee shall be \$0.00, and the interest rate shall be 0% upon the late payment of all utilities provided by the City, including without limitation, water, stormwater, wastewater, and, refuse through September 14, 2020. On September 15, 2020, penalties, late fees, administrative fees, and interest shall resume at normal rates as set forth in the City Code and the Utility Policy/Procedure.

2. The City Council strongly recommends the City not undertake collection action upon any citizen that fails to pay any of the utilities, including cutting off services, through August 17, 2020.

3. This Ordinance shall take precedence over any conflicting provisions in that certain Emergency Ordinance Regarding Utility Payments During the COVID-19 Pandemic adopted by City Council on June 22, 2020, the passage of this Ordinance is an emergency measure, and this Ordinance shall be effective immediately.

4. The City Manager is hereby authorized to take all actions reasonably necessary, including executing such documents as are reasonably necessary, to effectuate and carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, on this 27th day of July, 2020.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Mayor and Clerk of the City Council of the City of Waynesboro, Virginia hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of an ordinance entitled A Second Emergency Ordinance Regarding Utility Payments During the COVID-19 Pandemic adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on July 27th, 2020.

[SEAL]

ATTEST: _____
Clerk, City Council
City of Waynesboro, Virginia

Mayor, City Council
City of Waynesboro, Virginia