

CITY OF FIFE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 1923

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIFE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, AMENDING SUBSECTIONS 13.04.240(D), 13.08.510(H), and 18.18.080(B) REGARDING DISCOUNTS TO UTILITY CHARGES FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS

WHEREAS, Under RCW 74.38.070 (the Senior Citizens Care Act) the City is given discretion to give reduced utility rates to “low-income senior citizens”, and “other low-income citizens,” and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.92.020 allows the City to “provide assistance to aid low income persons in connection with services provided . . . ,” and

WHEREAS, the City currently provides a 30% discount to City water, sewer, and storm utility charges to seniors whose income is 70% or less of the median household income; and

WHEREAS, it is a heavy burden on seniors with incomes of 50% or less of the median household income to pay utility bills even with the 30% reduction; and

WHEREAS, the council deems it appropriate and in the public interest to grant a greater utility rate discount to seniors with incomes of 50% or less of the median household income;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FIFE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subsection 13.04.240(D) of the Fife Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

D. Reduced Water Rates.

1. Upon application therefor, a thirty percent discount in any residential water rate set forth in this chapter shall be granted for any household occupied by low income elderly senior or low income disabled persons. In order to qualify as disabled under this section the applicant must receive funds from a disability program as a result of a disability that prevents them from working consistent with the equivalent of 42 U.S.C. Section 401 et seq. A household shall qualify for this discount if it is a single family dwelling unit or an individually metered multi-dwelling unit, occupied by at least one person sixty-two years of age or older or one adult disabled person, and the total gross household income in either case is equal to or less than seventy percent of the median household income in Pierce County. A fifty percent water rate discount shall be granted for any household that

meets the above eligibility criteria, when the total gross household income in either case is equal to or less than fifty percent of the median household income in Pierce County. Eligibility shall be certified by the city clerk. The city clerk may verify continued eligibility at any time after initial certification.

2. The city manager is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to implement this section.

Section 2: Subsection 13.08.510(H) of the Fife Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

H. Reduced Sewer Rates.

1. Upon application therefor, a thirty percent discount in any residential sewer rate set forth in this chapter shall be granted for any household occupied by low income elderly senior or low income disabled persons. In order to qualify as disabled under this section In order to qualify as disabled under this section the applicant must receive funds from a disability program as a result of a disability that prevents them from working consistent with the equivalent of 42 U.S.C. Section 401 et seq. A household shall qualify for this discount if it is a single family dwelling unit or an individually metered multi-dwelling unit, occupied by at least one person sixty-two years of age or older or one adult disabled person, and the total gross household income in either case is equal to or less than seventy percent of the median household income in Pierce County. A fifty percent water rate discount shall be granted for any household that meets the above eligibility criteria, when the total gross household income in either case is equal to or less than fifty percent of the median household income in Pierce County. Eligibility shall be certified by the city clerk. The city clerk may verify continued eligibility at any time after initial certification.

2. The city manager is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to implement this section.

Section 3: Subsection 13.18.080(B) of the Fife Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

B. Reduced Rates for Low-Income Elderly and Disabled. The service charge shall be discounted for those customers who reside in single-family dwelling units and who qualify under the criteria set forth in FMC 13.04.240(D).

Section 4. Each and every provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is determined by final order of a court of competent jurisdiction to be void or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions thereof, provided the intent of this Ordinance can still be furthered without the invalid provision.

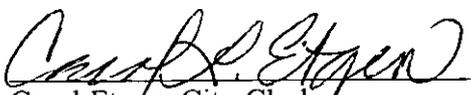
Section 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) days after publication as required by law. A summary of this Ordinance may be published in lieu of the entire Ordinance, as authorized by State law.

Introduced on the 8th day of December, 2015.

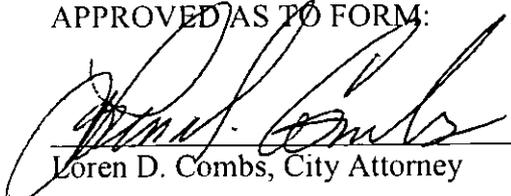
Passed by the City Council on the 8th day of December 2015.


Subir Mukerjee, City Manager

ATTEST:


Carol Etgen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Loren D. Combs, City Attorney

Published: 12 / 10 / 2015
Effective Date: 12 / 15 / 2015