

ORDINANCE NO. 3280

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Puyallup, Washington, amending Section 14.01.100 of the Puyallup Municipal Code pertaining to disconnection of utility service due to nonpayment.

Whereas, the City of Puyallup prioritizes the well-being and safety of its residents during heat-related events while ensuring fair and responsible financial practices regarding water service; and

Whereas, the state legislature recently enacted Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1329, which became effective on July 23, 2023; and

Whereas, the current municipal code pertaining to disconnection of utility service due to nonpayment needs to be updated to reflect the changes in state law; and

Whereas, the City Council has determined it is necessary to clarify and amend the City Code as it pertains to water service disconnections during a National Weather Service heat-related alert;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Puyallup do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 14.01.100 of the Puyallup Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows.

14.01.100 Disconnection of service due to nonpayment.

(1) Any customer who has a bill not paid by 9:00 a.m. on the forty-eighth calendar day after the billing date shall have water service disconnected. The city may provide notice by hanging a tag on a door or other prominent location two days before water service is discontinued, or provide notice in any other manner as required by law.

(2) Service that is discontinued due to nonpayment shall be restored after a completed application to turn-on water form is signed by the customer, and a ~~\$50.00~~ the applicable turn-on fee (during working hours) is paid. If the request to restore service is made after working hours, the overtime rate will be charged to the customer.

(3) A lien for delinquent charges may be placed upon the property being served by filing a notice with the county assessor. The city shall send a written notice of filing to the recorded owner of the property. County assessor's fees for filing and releasing liens will be charged to the customer.

(4) In the event of a heat-related weather alert from the National Weather Service, regularly scheduled nonpayment disconnects of water utility services to residential customers shall be deferred. Nonpayment disconnects will resume the following week.

provided the heat-related alert has been lifted.

(5) If a qualifying heat-related event is issued by the National Weather Service after a nonpayment disconnection of water utility services to a residential customer, and upon receipt of a request from the customer, the City of Puyallup shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to reconnect water service to the property address. Any past due amounts, and related fees, will be due prior to the next scheduled water shutoff date. If payment is not received by the next scheduled shutoff date, water service will be disconnected without further notice.

Section 2. If a section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance unless the whole purpose and intent of this ordinance is destroyed. If the provisions of this ordinance are found to be inconsistent with the other provisions of the Puyallup Municipal Code, this ordinance is deemed to control.

Section 3. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

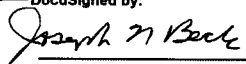
Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective five days after publication in the official newspaper of the City of Puyallup.

PASSED at a regularly scheduled open public meeting by the City Council for the City of Puyallup on the 12 day of September, 2023.

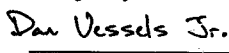

Dean Johnson
Mayor

Approved as to form:

Attest:

DocuSigned by:


Joseph N. Beck
City Attorney

DocuSigned by:


Dan Vessels Jr.
City Clerk

Published: September 15, 2023

Effective: September 20, 2023