

**ORDINANCE ENACTING TITLE 15 CHAPTER 7 SECTION 5 – AN EMERGENCY  
ORDINANCE TO RELIEVE CUSTOMERS FROM PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH  
LATE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR CITY UTILITY SERVICE**

**TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCE CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS**, City Council wishes to assist its residents and businesses as the community contends with the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in a state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 12, 2020 and the Declaration of Local Emergency issued by the City Manager on March 15, 2020 and confirmed by City Council on March 24, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 15.2-1413 of the Code of Virginia authorizes City Council to act to assure continuity in government in the event of a disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council determines that providing relief for City utility customers severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic from penalties associated with late payment of utility bills for City provided services will promote continuity of government and grant needed relief to businesses and individuals affected by the disaster.

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

*Relief from Penalties Associated with Late Payment of Bills for City Utility Services.*

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 7-4-3 of the Code of the City of Harrisonburg, the late penalty set forth in Section 7-4-3(b) shall be 2.5% from the effective date of this Ordinance through June 30, 2021 or the date thirty days after the Declaration of Local Emergency is rescinded, whichever occurs first. Any penalty for the late payment of a bill for City utility services that was or will be due and payable to the City between March 30, 2020 and the effective date of this Ordinance may be waived for any customer that is a business, non-profit organization, or individual, who incurs a reduction in income or an increase in expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and can document such reduction or increase. The waiver must be requested by the customer and shall apply only to water, sewer, and solid waste collection provided by the City. Any such customer who has paid a penalty for the late payment of a City utility services bill between March 30, 2020 and the date of this ordinance may, upon request to the Director, have the amount of one such late fee

applied as a credit towards the customer's next bill. The Director or their designee may enter into payment arrangements with customers who receive waivers of penalty on such terms as the Director may establish.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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**MAYOR**

ATTESTEE:

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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