

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-40

A RESOLUTION EXTENDING TEMPORARY CHANGES FOR THE EMERGENCY UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Whereas, the City of Salem operates municipal utilities for the benefit of the public;

Whereas, for many years the City of Salem has administered programs to provide rate relief and emergency assistance to certain City utility customers; and

Whereas, the City Council desires to provide immediate financial relief to qualified utility customers.

Whereas, on April 27, 2020, City Council adopted Resolution 2020-22 including actions and assistance designed to help customers experiencing economic hardship as a result of COVID-19. Changes to the Emergency Utility Assistance Program included an increase in program funding to \$500,000, an increase in the maximum annual assistance per account to \$500, and an expansion of criteria to approve eligible recipients based on their qualification for other programs with income limits. These changes were to remain in place until July 31, 2020, unless otherwise amended or extended.

Whereas, City Council finds that the economic hardships associated with the COVID-19 pandemic that led to the passage of Resolution 2020-22 are ongoing and customers are in need of continued assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, OREGON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Resolution 2020-22 is amended to extend the effective date to June 30, 2021, as set forth in Exhibit A, and as amended is hereby adopted.

Section 2. Staff is authorized to notify delinquent customers that standard account management and enforcement practices will resume October 1, 2020.

Section 3. Staff is authorized to transfer any outstanding balances from City of Salem Utility Billing to City of Salem Finance to be set up on a 12-month no interest, no penalty payment plan or other appropriate program identified in the interim.

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Section 4. All prior policies, procedures, or resolutions related to the program are hereby amended to be in conformance to this resolution.

Section 5. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 10th day of August, 2020.

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Approved by City Attorney: _____

Checked by: A.Blalock