

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-36

A RESOLUTION RESTATING THE TERMS OF THE EMERGENCY UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, ADDING A CRITERION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE INCREASE IN MAXIMUM ANNUAL ASSISTANCE

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 utility rate relief and emergency utility assistance to certain City utility customers; and

Whereas, the City Council desires to provide continued 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 increased program funding to \$500,000, increased the maximum annual assistance per account to \$500, and expanded income-based eligibility criteria for customers pre-qualified by other agencies. These changes were to remain in place until July 31, 2020, unless otherwise amended or extended.

Whereas, on August 20, 2020, City Council adopted Resolution 2020-40 extending the program changes through July 31, 2021.

Whereas, on March 22, 2021, City Council adopted Resolution 2021-10 extending the program changes through December 31, 2021.

Whereas, City Council finds that the economic hardships associated with the COVID-19 pandemic that led to the passage of Resolutions 2020-22, 2020-40, and 2021-10 are ongoing and customers will benefit from continued assistance.

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

Section 1. Resolution 2021-10 is amended to restate the terms of the Emergency Utility Assistance Program, add qualification for Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program as a pre-qualification criteria for Emergency Assistance, and extend the effective date of the \$500 maximum to December 31, 2022, as set forth in Exhibit A, and as amended is hereby adopted.

Section 2. All prior policies, procedures, or resolutions related to the program are hereby amended to be in conformance to this resolution.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 27th day of September 2021.

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Approved by City Attorney: _____

Checked by: A. Blalock