

ORDINANCE 2024-1089

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAITSBURG, WASHINGTON, ADDING A NEW SECTION TO CHAPTER 1 OF TITLE 9 OF THE WAITSBURG MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY TAX

Whereas, there exists a need for City staff to be able to adjust Waitsburg utility bills (e.g., when customer financial institution account becomes compromised by unauthorized users); and

Whereas, the City desires to have a procedure in place for the granting of relief when such hardships arise (“Hardship Relief”); and

Whereas, this adjustment is a removal of an unwarranted charge and therefore not an improper gift of public funds or an improper lending of the public’s credit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Waitsburg as follows:

Section I. Amendment. The following provisions of Chapter 1 of Title 9 of the Waitsburg Municipal Code shall be amended as follows (with **bolded language** being added and ~~stricken language~~ being deleted):

Chapter 9.01.086. Hardship Relief--Adjustments due to compromised bank accounts.

A. When a utility user’s bank/credit card account is compromised and the utility bill goes unpaid by the compromised account, the City Clerk and/or the Utility Clerk in their sole discretion, may grant Hardship Relief by waiving the City late fees.

B. The amount of Hardship Relief will not exceed the waiver of the late penalty during the month in which the hardship occurred as well as the following month. The method for determining the amount to be waived will be done using the late fee schedule contained in Chapter 1, Title 9, section 150, subsection B (9.01.150 B) of the Waitsburg Municipal Code. (Ord. No. 887; April 2005).

Section II. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Council and publication as required by law.

Passed by the Waitsburg City Council this 17th day of April 2024.

Approved:

Attest:

Martin Dunn, Mayor

Randy Hinchliffe, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jared Hawkins, City Attorney