

ORDINANCE 2020 – 51

TEMPORARILY AMENDING THE SEWER RATE FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH A UTILITY STIMULUS GIFT CARD PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in order to create or preserve jobs and employment opportunities, and to improve the economic welfare of the people of Mason, it has been determined to be in the public interest and a proper public purpose for Mason to engage in certain economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that it is critical to assist the business recovery of the City of Mason business community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide assistance to Mason small businesses, to promote back-to-work programs in Mason, to stimulate business activity in Mason, and to encourage local shopping and business activity, Council hereby declares it to be a proper public purpose to temporarily amend sewer rates for all sewer customers and to establish a utility stimulus gift card program; and

WHEREAS, such action provides both an opportunity to provide immediate assistance to residents and local businesses, as well as encouraging further local shopping and business activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mason, Ohio, seven members thereto concurring:

Section 1. That the sewer rates for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional establishments and multi-family dwellings, as authorized by section 942.08 of the Mason Codified Ordinances and as set forth in the fee schedule adopted by section 205.01 of the Mason Codified Ordinances is hereby temporarily set at \$0 for the July billing month following the effective date of this Ordinance. Upon the end of said time period, all sewer fees shall automatically return to their previously established rates with no further action of Council.

Section 2. That the City Manager is further authorized to establish a program wherein all sewer customers will be eligible to sign up to receive a one-time Come Together Mason e-gift card (through the existing Nifty Yiftee program) in an amount not to exceed \$50 upon submission of sufficient identifying information as determined by the City Manager. Such gift cards shall be paid from the Sewer Utility Fund.

Section 3. That the e-gift cards issued hereunder shall be dedicated to assisting Mason small businesses.

Section 4. That the City Manager is further authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Greater Cincinnati Water Works in order to address any billing, fee, or other matters related to such program.

Section 5. That there is hereby appropriated from the Sewer Utility Fund an amount of \$500,000 to fund such program. An additional \$500,000 may be appropriated from the Sewer Utility Fund to be utilized if needed based upon further government shut-down or slow-down orders, to be determined by the City Manager.

Section 6. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare and shall be effective immediately upon its adoption. The reason for said declaration of emergency is the need to amend sewer rates and authorize the funding at the earliest possible date in order to immediately begin the business recovery efforts needed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Passed this 11th day of May, 2020.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk of Council

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