

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE CALCULATION FOR THE UTILITY RATE RELIEF PROGRAM BY AMENDING SECTIONS 13.08.430C AND 13.16.360E OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has implemented a new financial software system;
and

WHEREAS, the City's intends to transition its utility billing system to the new software system; and

WHEREAS, the new software system requires certain changes to the way the Rate Relief Program is applied to utility bills.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 13.08.430C of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

C. Water Rate Relief Program.

1. Residential water users can apply for ~~a freeze~~ rate relief on water monthly meter and unit charges. Eligibility for this program is based upon criteria outlined by the State of South Dakota Department of Revenue for the purpose of the Assessments Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled Program (hereinafter "State Program"). The Water Rate Relief Program shall be administered through the city Public Works Department. The Director of Public Works shall have the authority to establish policies and procedures for administration of the program. In order to qualify for the program an applicant must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Must either be 65 years of age or older or disabled as defined by the Social Security Act.
 - b. Income (applicant's federal adjusted gross income plus any other income including social security payments) must meet the requirements set by the State Program.
 - c. Applicant may own, rent, lease, or have a life estate in the property for which the freeze is applied for. Applicant must physically reside at the property. The water bill must be in the applicant's name. If the residence has multiple units, but is served by only 1 service line or meter, the residents of the property are not eligible for the program. If each unit has its own meter, the residents may be eligible for the program if they meet the other criteria. If the applicant owns or has a life estate in the property, it must have a fair market value that meets the requirements set by the State Program. If the applicant rents or leases the property the rent or lease payment must be less than \$900 for a single person or less than \$1,200 for a multiple income household.
2. If an applicant qualifies for the program their water and meter rates will ~~remain the same~~ be reduced by twenty percent (20%) for a period of 2 years or until the renewal date established by the Public Works Director. The applicant must reapply at least every 2 years, or more frequently as the policies established by the Public Works

Director may require. If the fair market value of the applicant's property or the rent paid by them exceeds the threshold amounts, they can still qualify for the program if they were qualified in the immediately preceding two years and remain domiciled in the same residence.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 13.16.360E of the Rapid City Municipal Code be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

E. *Sewer Rate Relief Program.* Residential sewer users can apply for ~~a freeze~~ rate relief on monthly sewer and unit charges. Eligibility for this program is based upon criteria outlined by the State of South Dakota Department of Revenue for the purpose of the Assessments Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled Program (hereinafter “State Program”). The Sewer Rate Relief Program shall be administered through the city Public Works Department. The Director of Public Works shall have the authority to establish policies and procedures for administration of the program. In order to qualify for the program an applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Must either be 65 years of age or older or disabled as defined by the Social Security Act.
2. Income (applicant’s federal adjusted gross income plus any other income including social security payments) must meet the requirements set by the State Program.
3. Applicant may own, rent, lease, or have a life estate in the property for which the freeze is applied for. Applicant must physically reside at the property. The sewer bill must be in the applicant's name. If the residence has multiple units, but is served by only one service line, the residents of the property are not eligible for the program. If the applicant owns or has a life estate in the property, it must have a fair market value that meets the requirements set by the State Program. If the applicant rents or leases the property the rent or lease payment must be less than \$900 for a single person or less than \$1,200 for a multiple income household.
4. If an applicant qualifies for the program their sewer and meter rates will ~~remain the same~~ be reduced by twenty percent (20%) for a period of 2 years or until the renewal date established by the Public Works Director. The applicant must reapply at least every 2 years, or more frequently as the policies established by the Public Works Director may require. If the fair market value of the applicant's property or the rent paid by them exceeds the threshold amounts, they can still qualify for the program if they were qualified in the immediately preceding two years and remain domiciled in the same residence.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

Mayor

Attest

Finance Officer

(seal)