

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA WASHINGTON, APPROVING ESTABLISHMENT OF A UTILITY CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE CHARITABLE FUND, APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL TO ADMINISTER THE FUND, AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia (City) operates Drinking Water, Wastewater, Storm and Surface Water and Waste Resources utilities (the Utilities) and charges customers for those services; and

WHEREAS, OMC 4.24.020 allows a fifty percent discount on residential utility rates to any household occupied by low-income elderly (age 62 or above) or low-income disabled persons where low-income is defined as equal to or less than fifty percent of the median household income in Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, approximately 31 percent of Olympia households make less than 50 percent of Thurston County Median Household Income; and

WHEREAS, approximately 17 percent of Olympia households make less than the Federal Poverty Threshold; and

WHEREAS, the City would like to also assist low-income households with their utility payments regardless of age or disability; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.92.020(5) authorizes cities to provide assistance to aid low-income persons; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.67.020(5) authorizes cities to provide assistance to aid low-income persons specific to sewerage services; and

WHEREAS, RCW 74.38.070 provides authority for cities to offer reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article 8, Section 7 of the state constitution permits "gifts" of public funds in "support of the poor and infirm"; and

WHEREAS, a utility customer assistance charitable fund, to be started with \$5,000 of seed money provided out of Utility Funds and supplemented with donations from utility ratepayers, has been identified as a means to provide assistance to low-income households with utility payments; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Council is willing, and has the skills and experience, to administer the utility customer service charitable fund on behalf of the City, and the City and Community Action Council have negotiated a draft contract governing Community Action Council's administration of the fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The Olympia City Council hereby approves establishment of a utility customer assistance charitable fund with \$5,000 of seed money provided by the Utilities in the following amounts commensurate to estimated 2020 revenues:
Drinking Water: \$1,618.71
Wastewater: \$1,158.27
Storm and Surface Water: \$ 748.17
Waste Resources: \$1,438.85
2. For purposes of administration of this utility customer assistance charitable fund, a “low-income citizen” eligible to receive assistance from the fund is defined as person living in a household in which the gross household income is equal to or less than fifty percent of the median household income in Thurston County (\$75,924 for 2020).
3. The Olympia City Council hereby approves a Professional Services Agreement with the Community Action Council of Thurston County to administer the new charitable fund.
4. The City Manager is authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the City of Olympia the Community Action Council Contract, and to make any minor modifications as may be required and are consistent with the intent of the Loan Contract, or to correct any scrivener's errors,

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2021.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael M. Young

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY