

CITY OF BUCKLEY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 21-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON EXTENDING THE DECLARATION AND PROCLAMATION OF AN EMERGENCY NECESSITATING THE UTILIZATION OF EMERGENCY POWERS GRANTED PURSUANT TO BUCKLEY MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.96 AND RCW 38.52.070 AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY PROCEDURES TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED WITH UTILITY SHUTOFFS/LATE FEES**

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**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Mayor Johnson issued a Proclamation of Emergency, declaring the COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency in the City of Buckley pursuant to Buckley Municipal Code 2.96 and Section 38.52.010 RCW;

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation 20-23 strongly encouraging utilities to take reasonable actions to mitigate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on utility customers.

**WHEREAS**, on July 2, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation 20-23.16 as the final extension of utility shutoff/late fee prohibitions through 11:59 PM on September 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the available financial resources of many of our citizens and businesses are becoming limited with many of them suffering considerable economic hardship as a result of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economy, resulting in a significant threat of utility services being disconnected and late payment fees being imposed; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining provision of utility services during this crisis is an essential tool in sustaining and protecting the health and welfare of our people and businesses as a critical part of the overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Buckley has allocated \$30,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funding in support of outstanding resident utility accounts affected by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining provision of City of Buckley utility services through November 2021 is an essential tool in communicating the ARPA funding and payment plan available that will help with sustaining and protecting the health and welfare of our people and businesses as a critical part of the overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the City Council for the City of Buckley, Washington, as a result of the above, hereby ratifies the extension of Proclamation of Emergency issued by Mayor Johnson for the City of Buckley on March 13, 2020. Council further finds the allowance of the utility late fees/penalties and shutoffs for non-payment of water, sanitary sewer, storm water, and solid waste utilities are waived and suspended through ~~November 30, 2021~~ December 31, 2021.


**EFFECTIVENESS**

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and expire on ~~November 30, 2021~~, December 31, 2021, unless suspended earlier or further extended by formal action of Council.

Introduced, passed and approved this 12th day of October, 2021.

  
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Pat Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Treva Percival, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Phil Olbrechts, City Attorney

**POSTED:** October 14, 2021