

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-134, AS AMENDED

AN ORDINANCE ADDING NEW SECTION V.6.A-C AND V.7. TO THE CURRENT RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY WATER AND WASTEWATER DEPARTMENTS OF CHAPTER 6109 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTON 743.01 THROUGH 743.04, CHAPTER 6109 SAFE DRINKING WATER, CHAPTER 6111 WATER POLLUTION, AND 3745-95 OF THE OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Findlay, State of Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1: That new Section V.6.A.-C. of the current Sewer Rules and Regulations be added to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Findlay, Ohio to reads as follows:

V. Billing for Service

6. Utility Bill Adjustment process in response to the reconciliation of utility bills status post the water meter transmitter replacement project.
 - A. The following is the criterion to determine if an adjustment is warranted and how it will be calculated:
 - The last actual read recorded in the billing system will be compared to the actual read at the time of installation of new equipment or repairs.
 - If the last estimation is higher than the actual, physical read, credit will be issued for the account.
 - If the last estimation is lower than the actual, physical read, the difference will be evaluated.
 - If the difference between the billed amount and the recorded usage is greater than five hundred percent (500%), a one-time adjustment may be made to the account up to a seventy-five percent (75%) discount with approval from the Mayor and/or Service-Safety Director of the City of Findlay, Ohio.
 - If after the adjustment, a payment is still needed, please refer to the Section titled "Utility Billing Payment Plan Rules".
 - B. Underground leaks unfounded during the transmitter replacement project, prior to a bill being issued, a one-time adjustment to the account up to a seventy-five percent (75%) discount with approval from the Mayor and/or Service-Safety Director of the City of Findlay, Ohio, may be considered. This is only for situations that have met the criteria set forth in Section 4 "Adjustment for Leak".
 - C. If the underestimation is for any other situation, please refer to section titled "Utility Billing Payment Plan Rules".

SECTION 2: That new Section V.7. of the current Sewer Rules and Regulations be added to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Findlay, Ohio to reads as follows:

7. Utility Billing Payment Plan Rules.

The City of Findlay understands the criticality of having working water and sewer services. It is common practice for the Utility Billing Office to be in contact with account holders to aid in keeping their utility bills current. It is the City’s desire to make every effort to support the account holder should a payment plan become necessary due to financial hardships stemming from a large utility bill.

Upon completion of an extensive investigation of an account, including but not limited to payment history, payment status of other accounts, current payment history and circumstances that caused the large account balance, the Utility Billing staff may offer the below Payment Plan to the account holder.

Negligence of the account holder or property owner excludes the account from the Payment Plan.

If the account holder is a tenant, the landlord’s signature is required before the plan can be established. This can be accomplished in person at the Utility Billing Department or by completing the Variance Authorization Letter which can be found on the City of Findlay Water Department website.

This is offered for residential customers with extraordinary situations only. The plans are not to be used with regular, delinquent/shut off notices. These plans are limited to one time per customer unless evaluated by the Mayor and Service-Safety Director of the City of Findlay, Ohio for extreme situations. The following points must be adhered to:

- o Payment plans will be established in person at the Utility Billing Office.
- o The payment plan remains with the property and is the responsibility of the tenant to inform the property owner.
- o If a tenant moves and stays in the City, the payment plan will remain with the tenant.
- o If a tenant leaves town, the payment plan will be the responsibility of the property owner.
- o If an account becomes delinquent and water is shut off due to nonpayment, the balance of the payment plan, the current bill, and the reconnection fee shall be due prior to the water service being restored to the property.


Account Balance	Length of Payment Plan
Under \$100	Not eligible for payment plan
\$100 - \$500	Up to Six (6) months to pay
\$501 - \$1,000	Up to Twelve (12) months to pay
\$1,001 - \$1,500	Up to Eighteen (18) months to pay
\$1,501 and above	Up to Twenty-four (24) months to pay

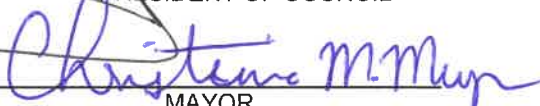
Payment plans must be approved by the Mayor or Service-Safety Director of the City of Findlay, Ohio. Once a plan is approved, then penalties and fees are waived for duration of the payment plans as long as the following stipulations are maintained during the term of the payment plan:

- o Bills must remain current during the agreed upon payment plan term.
- o Payment plans will be paid on a monthly basis by the due date (generally the 12th) of each month.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Findlay, Ohio, and for the further reason that it is immediately necessary to authorize said additional language to the aforementioned current Sewer Rules and Regulations, so that one-time adjustment criteria and payment plan procedures for utility bills may be enacted.

WHEREFORE: this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor.



 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL


 MAYOR

PASSED December 19, 2023

ATTEST Deise DeVore
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED December 19, 2023