

ORDINANCE NO. _____ C.S

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REGARDING
SUSPENSION OF DISCONNECTION OF UTILITY SERVICES
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19**

WHEREAS, Due to the risks related to public health associated with the COVID-19 Coronavirus, Governor John Bel Edwards has declared a statewide Public Health Emergency (Proclamation Number 25 JBE 2020); and

WHEREAS, the Governor has issued additional orders to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, including the closing of schools, restrictions and suspensions of private business operations and limitations on social gatherings; and

WHEREAS, individuals have been encouraged to isolate, quarantine and/or work from home or are required to stay at home to care for a child whose school is closed or a sick family member, to help mitigate the ongoing spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, resulting in a slow down or lack of demand for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, those businesses still operating have suffered a financial loss and/or instituted temporary or partial layoff of employees or restricted their hours of operation resulting in a loss of business and earnings to their employees; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain public health and safety it is necessary to maintain the availability of utility service to the public; and

WHEREAS, due to the adverse financial impact on business and individuals, immediate action is required to ensure utility service is not disconnected for non-payment; and

WHEREAS, The Hammond City Charter allows the adoption of an emergency ordinance to meet a public emergency affecting life, health property or public safety at the meeting at which it is introduced.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1.** The Council recognizes the public health emergency associated with the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus and the resulting adverse financial and personal impact on businesses and individuals in the City of Hammond.
- 2.** As of the effective date of this ordinance, the City shall be prohibited from disconnecting utilities managed by the City of Hammond from customers for non-payment of utility bills due to the effects of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.
- 3.** This ordinance does not forgive the payment of utility bills. The City administration is authorized to enter into repayment agreements with customers and waive late fees for customers who are unable to timely pay for utility services due to the adverse effects of the COVID 19 Coronavirus.

- 4. This ordinance shall not affect the City’s ability to disconnect a utility service for public safety concerns unrelated to non-payment of services.
- 5. This ordinance shall be effective for sixty (60) days.

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The above and foregoing ordinance having been duly submitted to the Hammond City Council in writing; discussed at a public meeting held on March ____, 2020; introduced and adopted at a public meeting on March ____, 2020 as an emergency ordinance under Section 2-13 of the Hammond Charter and after motion and second was submitted to the official vote of the Hammond City Council.

On motion by _____ and Second by _____ the foregoing ordinance was hereby declared adopted on March ____, 2020 by the following roll call vote:

Votes: Kip Andrews () Carlee White Gonzales () Devon Wells () Sam DiVittorio () Steve Leon ()

WHEREFORE the above and foregoing ordinance was declared duly adopted on this _____ day of March, 2020 at Hammond, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

 Carlee White Gonzales
 President, Hammond City Council

 Honorable Pete Panepinto
 Mayor, City of Hammond

 Tonia Banks
 Clerk, Hammond City Council