

# RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance ~~N~~**2003-2**

Passed ~~February~~ **February 10**

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## MUNICIPALITY OF BELLBROOK, OHIO

### ORDINANCE NO. 2003-2

AN ORDINANCE TO FACILITATE COMPETITIVE RETAIL NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO PROMOTE NATURAL GAS SAVINGS, LOWER COST NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN NATURAL GAS CONSUMERS, AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT AN OPT-OUT NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND ARTICLE XVIII SECTION 4 OF THE OHIO CONSTITUTION; DIRECTING THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS; AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AN AGENT FOR SUCH PURPOSES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Article XVIII Section 4 of the Ohio Constitution grants the City of Bellbrook (the “Municipality”) certain authority related to utility service; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Chapter 4929 of the Ohio Revised Code, to facilitate competitive retail natural gas service to promote natural gas savings, lower cost natural gas supplies, and other benefits, certain governmental entities may aggregate certain natural gas consumers within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 4929.26, Revised Code, the Municipality is authorized to establish an opt-out natural gas aggregation program (“Gas Aggregation”) for the benefit of certain natural gas consumers within the Municipality so that the consumers may realize lower cost natural gas supplies and other benefits from the aggregation and collective purchasing of natural gas supplies; and

WHEREAS, Gas Aggregation provides an opportunity for natural gas consumers collectively to realize natural gas savings, lower cost natural gas supplies, and other benefits that the consumers may not otherwise be able to realize individually; and

WHEREAS, The Municipality desires to submit to the electors of the Municipality the question of whether the Municipality should create a Gas Aggregation program to facilitate competitive retail natural gas service to promote natural gas savings, lower cost natural gas supplies, and other benefits in accordance with Section 4929.26, Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, The Municipality has adopted this Ordinance pursuant to the authority conferred by Article XVIII Section 4 of the Ohio Constitution and Section 4929.26, Revised Code.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE MUNICIPALITY OF BELLBROOK HEREBY ORDAINS (AT LEAST FIVE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL CONCURRING):**

SECTION 1. This Council finds and determines that to facilitate competitive retail natural gas service to promote natural gas savings, lower cost natural gas supplies, and other benefits, it is in the best interest of the Municipality and certain natural gas consumers within the jurisdiction of the

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at the election held in accordance with this Ordinance and Section 4929.26, Revised Code. Upon approval, the Gas Aggregation shall take effect at the earliest permissible point in time and continue thereafter in accordance with Section 4929.26, Revised Code, and other requirements of Chapter 4929, Revised Code.

SECTION 4. Upon approval by a majority of the electors voting at the election provided for in this Ordinance, the Municipality shall develop and adopt a Plan of operations and governance for the Gas Aggregation program. Consumers enrolled in the Gas Aggregation program shall be supplied their natural gas requirements and other services in accordance with supply agreement(s) determined and arranged by the Municipality, as opportunities become available to provide benefits on behalf of the natural gas consumers enrolled in the Gas Aggregation program and the consumers located within the jurisdiction of the Municipality. The Municipality shall be authorized by the electors to be the only entity authorized to act for and on behalf of the natural gas consumers that have enrolled in the Gas Aggregation program to determine and select the natural gas supplier(s) to provide the commodity and all other services for the Gas Aggregation program and the enrolled consumers. Before adopting such Plan, at least two public hearings on the Plan shall be held. Before the first hearing, notice of the first hearing shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Municipality. The notice shall summarize the Plan and state the date, time, and location of each hearing.

SECTION 5. The adopted Plan shall not aggregate any retail natural gas load within the Municipality, unless the person whose retail natural gas load is to be so aggregated is notified in advance that the person will be enrolled automatically in the Gas Aggregation program and shall remain so enrolled, unless the person affirmatively elects not to be so enrolled by a stated procedure. The disclosure shall state the rates, charges, and other terms and conditions of the enrollment. Once enrolled the consumer may only opt-out of the Gas Aggregation program every two years without paying a switching fee. Any such person that opts-out of the Gas Aggregation program shall default to the natural gas company providing distribution service for the person's retail natural gas load, until the person chooses an alternative supplier.

SECTION 6. That the Greene County Board of Elections shall cause an appropriate notice to be duly given of the election to be held on May 6, 2003 on the foregoing proposal and otherwise to provide for such election in the manner provided by the laws of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 7. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in compliance with the law.

SECTION 8. That this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency providing for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, or safety, in that opportunities to coordinate aggregation activities with certain suppliers of natural gas may become limited.

SECTION 9. That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.