



City Code of Ordinances

Proposed Revisions to Chapter 13 - Utilities

July 23, 2024

Current Status for Outstanding Balances for Utility Bills with Current Ordinances

Property Owner/Landlord

- Currently, the City has the legal authority to collect any outstanding balance.

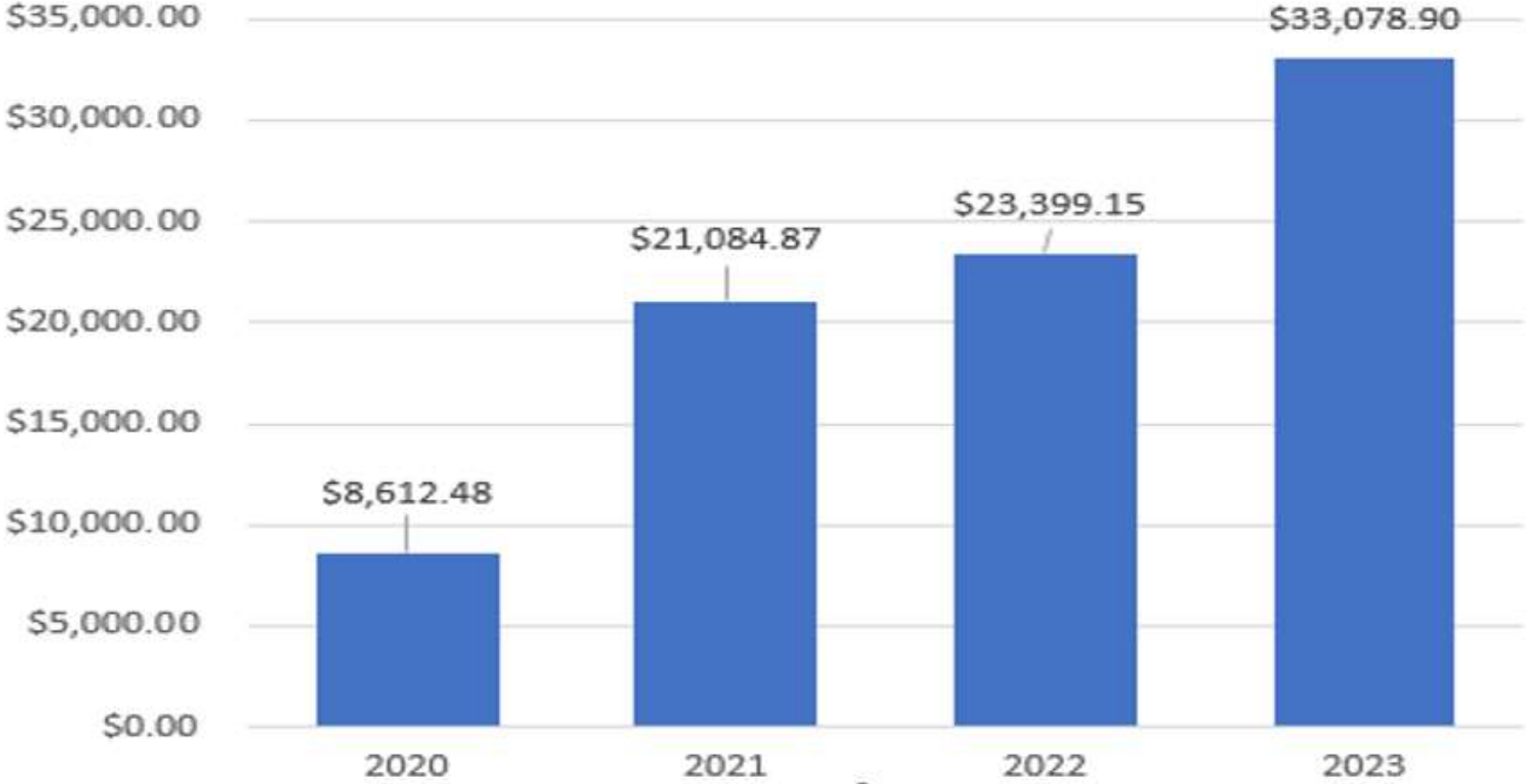
Tenants

- Currently, the City has no practical legal authority to collect any outstanding balances.

Overview

- The City of Cooper City services nearly 12,000 active accounts.
- **Approximately 10%** of the active accounts are **tenants**.
- Florida Statute § 180.135 prevents the City from holding tenants, who fail to pay their Utility Bills, accountable.
- **Nearly 600 inactive/closed tenant accounts have prevented the City from collecting approximately \$135,000 over the past seven years**, which increases every month.
- This means other Utility customers are covering the cost for those failing to pay.
- We cannot stop the continuous defaults and loss of revenue.

Total Utility Bill Revenue Lost Due to Tenant's not Paying



Goals

- To collect payment due for all services provided.
- To reduce staff workload for opening and closing tenant accounts.

Recommendation

- Approve amendment to Ordinance for Commission consideration and approval.
 - Utility bills in property owner/landlord names only for single-family and multi-family properties.
 - For any name changes made to an account (or any new connections).