



CITY COMMISSION ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

TITLE: Ordinance 24-17 (Utilities)

DATE: August 27, 2024

DESCRIPTION: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "GARBAGE, TRASH, AND VEGETATIVE GROWTH;" AMENDING ARTICLE II, ENTITLED "COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE AND TRASH;" BY SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 8-23, ENTITLED "COST MAY BE ADDED TO BILL FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE; EXEMPTION FOR PART-TIME RESIDENTS;" AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "UTILITIES;" AMENDING ARTICLE III, ENTITLED "WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS;" BY SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 19-72, ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS;" AMENDING SECTION 19-74, ENTITLED "APPLICATION FOR SERVICE;" FURTHER ARTICLE IV, ENTITLED "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY;" BY SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 19-155, ENTITLED "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY FEE CREATED;" AMENDING SECTION 19-157, ENTITLED "BILLING, PAYMENT, PENALTIES, AND ENFORCEMENT;" AND AMENDING SECTION 19-158, ENTITLED "ADJUSTMENT OF FEES;" PROVIDING FOR EACH OWNER OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALL APPLICABLE UTILITY FEES INCLUDING SOLID WASTE, WATER, SEWER, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:

The City Manager recommends approval of Ordinance 24-17 on 2nd reading, authorizing and approving transferring the responsibility for City utilities for single and multi-family residences from the tenant to the property owner.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

The City utility bills for properties that are rented are mainly in the tenant's name. When tenants leave with outstanding City utility balances, the outstanding balance cannot be collected. The monitoring and collection effort puts a strain on the utility billing staff. The City does not currently ask for social security numbers on the lease application; therefore, the outstanding balance cannot be reported to the credit bureau. The City does use a collection agency to try to recoup

as much of the outstanding balances as possible; however, the conversion rate has been minimal. Lost revenue for the past seven years is calculated at approximately \$135,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this ordinance would eliminate the revenue lost from tenants who do not pay their utility bills. Last year, the unpaid balance was \$33,078.90.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance 24-17
2. Proposed Revisions to Ch. 13 PowerPoint