

ORDINANCE 25-526

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHWOOD ADOPTING A FEE TO DEFRAY COSTS OF COLLECTING DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND AMENDING THE APPENDIX B FEE SCHEDULE OF THE RICHWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES, THEREFORE PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS PASSAGE.

WHEREAS, the City of Richwood, pursuant to Subchapter A of Chapter 51, Texas Local Government Code, may adopt an ordinance that is for the good government, peace, or order of the municipality and is necessary or proper for carrying out a power granted by law to the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of a municipality, pursuant to Subchapter A of Chapter 54, Texas Local Government Code, may enforce each rule or ordinance of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richwood, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 552.001(b), may purchase, construct, or operate a utility system and may regulate the system in a manner that protects the interests of the municipality and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the public interest to ensure the prompt payment of delinquent utility accounts and

WHEREAS, the City of Richwood has intends to enter into a contract with a private firm to provide services for the collection of debts and accounts receivable related to delinquent utility accounts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHWOOD, TEXAS:

Section 1: There shall be imposed an additional fee of thirty percent (30%) on all debts and accounts receivable, i.e.: fines, fees, restitution, other debts, and costs, that are more than sixty (60) days past due and have been referred to a private firm for collection, and that relate to delinquent utility accounts owed to the City.

Section 2: That if any provision of this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance, and the City Council of the City of Richwood, Texas, hereby declares that it would have enacted such remaining portions despite any such invalidity.

Section 3: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict only.

Section 4. The City Secretary shall publish the caption of this ordinance within ten (10) days of the final passage in the City's official newspaper. This ordinance shall take effect immediately after adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Richwood, Texas, this 10th day of February, 2025.

Michael Durham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kirsten Garcia, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney