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**THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON**  
**COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

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**ORDINANCE**  
NUMBER 2025-005

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**AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,  
AMENDING CHAPTER 6-5 (“*WATER AND SEWER REGULATIONS*”) OF TITLE 6  
 (“*HEALTH AND SANITATION*”) OF ITS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING  
TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF WATER BILL DUE DATES AND SUSPENSION OF  
PENALTIES IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES**

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**MAXINE REYNOLDS, Village President**  
**NIKKI KITAKIS, Village Clerk**

**ROSEMARY CUNNINGHAM**  
**GINA GLASER**  
**ERNEST “BO” KAYE**  
**PHILLIP MIDDLEBROOKS**  
**DEBRA PISARZEWSKI**  
**MARTIN PRATSCHER**  
**Trustees**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-005**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,  
AMENDING CHAPTER 6-5 (“*WATER AND SEWER REGULATIONS*”) OF TITLE 6  
 (“*HEALTH AND SANITATION*”) OF ITS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING  
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**WHEREAS**, the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois (the “*Village*”) is a home rule municipality pursuant to Section 6(a), Article VII of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs (the “*Home Rule Powers*”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village (the “*Corporate Authorities*”) may from time to time amend the text of the Thornton Municipal Code when it is determined to be in the best interests of the residents of the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 11 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-101 et seq.), the Corporate Authorities of the Village are authorized by ordinance to establish rates, charges, and related billing and collection procedures for the operation of the Village’s municipal waterworks and sewerage systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 6-5-4(Z) of the Thornton Municipal Code establishes due dates, penalties, and enforcement timelines for water bills; and

**WHEREAS**, from time to time, administrative issues may arise, including billing errors, mailing failures, vendor or system issues, or similar circumstances, that may result in residents not receiving timely notice of amounts due; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities desire to amend the Thornton Municipal Code to provide limited flexibility to address such circumstances in a fair and orderly manner, while maintaining the integrity of the Village’s water billing and enforcement system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities find that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Village to amend the Code as set forth herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois, by and through its Home Rule Powers as follows:

**Section 1.** That the above recitals and legislative findings are found to be true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

**Section 2.** Section 6-5-4(Z) (*“Water bills; when due and payable; penalty; failure to pay”*) of Chapter 6-5 (*“Water and Sewer Regulations”*) of Title 6 (*“Health and Sanitation”*) of the Thornton Code is hereby amended by adding a new subsection (6) to read as follows:

6.) Temporary extension of due dates; temporary suspension of penalties and enforcement.

a.) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter to the contrary, upon a written determination by the Village Administrator, supported by specific facts, that a billing error, mailing failure, vendor or system issue, or other administrative circumstance has occurred and materially affects a substantial number of customers’ ability to timely receive or pay a water bill, and is not based solely on individual customer hardship or isolated billing disputes, the Village Administrator is authorized to implement, on a one-time basis, for a defined billing cycle or defined period, one or more of the actions set forth in subsection (b) below.

b.) The Village Administrator may, only for the billing cycle or period identified in the written determination, and only to the extent strictly necessary to remedy the administrative disruption, do one or more of the following:

- i.) Extend the due date for payment of water bills by not more than twenty (20) calendar days beyond the due date otherwise established under subsection (Z)(1), and in no event may such extension be renewed, reissued, or extended beyond a single occurrence for the same billing cycle;
- ii.) Temporarily suspend the assessment of late payment penalties under subsection (Z)(1);
- iii.) Temporarily suspend issuance of second notices, red tag notices, or service shut off actions otherwise authorized under subsection (Z)(1);
- iv.) Adjust or reset enforcement timelines related to billing and collection under this Chapter, provided that no adjustment shall impair, waive, toll, or extinguish the Village’s right to collect lawfully owed charges or to pursue liens or enforcement once the temporary relief period expires, without

further action of the Village Administrator; and

- v.) Take such other temporary and narrowly tailored administrative actions as are directly related to correcting the identified administrative disruption and necessary to ensure fair and uniform administration of the Village's water billing system, but only to the minimum extent required.

c.) Any action taken pursuant to this subsection shall:

- i.) Be limited in duration and scope;
- ii.) Apply uniformly to all affected customers;
- iii.) Automatically expire without further action at the end of the defined billing cycle or period; and
- iv.) Not waive, forgive, reduce, or permanently modify any underlying water or sewer charges owed to the Village including charges already billed or accrued.

d.) The Village Administrator shall report any action taken pursuant to this subsection in writing to the President and Board of Trustees at the next regularly scheduled meeting following implementation, including the factual basis for the determination, the specific relief granted, and the duration of such relief.

e.) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize:

- i.) Individualized waivers or relief for single customers;
- ii.) Permanent modification of rates, charges, penalties, or enforcement procedures;
- iii.) Relief based solely on customer hardship unrelated to an administrative disruption; or
- iv.) Delegation of this authority to any other officer or employee of the Village.

**Section 3.** If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any other provision of this Ordinance.

**Section 4.** All ordinances, resolutions, motions or orders in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 5.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

*(Intentionally Left Blank)*

**ADOPTED** by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Thornton,  
Cook County, Illinois this 2nd day of February 2026, pursuant to a roll call vote, as follows:

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
CUNNINGHAM				
GLASER				
KAYE				
MIDDLEBROOKS				
PISARZEWSKI				
PRATSCHER				
VILLAGE PRESIDENT REYNOLDS				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

**APPROVED** by the Village President of the Village of Thornton, Cook County, Illinois  
on this 2nd day of February 2026.

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MAXINE REYNOLDS  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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NIKKI KITAKIS  
VILLAGE CLERK