

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 705.100, APPLICATION FOR WATER SERVICES – DEPOSIT – AUTHORITY OF CITY TREASURER, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI, RELATING TO WATER SERVICE APPLICATIONS AND CUSTOMER DEPOSITS.

WHEREAS, the City of Willard maintains policies governing applications for water service and associated customer deposits; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen finds it appropriate to incentivize consistent, timely payment of utility bills while maintaining adequate security for unpaid balances; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen desire to adopt the code changes to reflect a more reasonable approach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: It is the intention of the Board of Aldermen and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Municipal Code of the City of Willard, Missouri, and the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention.

Section 2: That Section 705.100 of the Municipal Code of the City of Willard, Missouri is hereby repealed in its entirety and amended to read as follows:

Section 705.100 Application For Water Service — Deposit — Authority of City Treasurer

- A. Application to have water turned on shall be made in writing to the Utility Clerk and shall contain an agreement by the applicant to abide by and accept all of the provisions of this Article as conditions governing the use of the City water supply by the applicant.
- B. A deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for non-business use and two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for business use shall be paid with each such application. This sum shall be retained by the City as security to ensure payment of all charges due on the account.
- C. If a customer makes twelve (12) consecutive, timely, and complete payments on the utility account following establishment of service, the deposit shall be credited

to the customer's utility account and shall be applied to future bills until exhausted.

1. For purposes of this Section, a "timely and complete payment" shall mean payment of the full amount due on or before the due date indicated on the utility bill. The assessment of any late fee, any service disconnection for nonpayment, or the customer's entry into a payment agreement shall constitute a break in the required consecutive payment history. Upon such break, the twelve (12) consecutive payment period shall restart.
 2. If the customer does not satisfy the twelve (12) consecutive timely and complete payment requirement, the deposit shall continue to be retained by the City until such requirement is satisfied or the account is closed.
- D. Upon closure of the account, the deposit shall be applied to the final bill. Any remaining balance of the deposit after satisfaction of all amounts due shall be refunded to the customer at the forwarding address provided.
- E. The City may waive the required utility deposit upon receipt of satisfactory written verification from the applicant's most recent utility provider demonstrating that the applicant has maintained a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months of timely payment history immediately preceding the date of application for service. Verification shall be from the utility provider serving the applicant at their most recent prior service address.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City reserves the right to require a deposit if the applicant, or any member of the applicant's household, has a prior history of delinquent payment, service disconnection, or other adverse account activity with the City.

Section 3: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage by the Board of Aldermen and signature of the Mayor and attested to by the City Clerk.

Section 4: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any provision hereof is declared invalid, unconstitutional or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

Section 5: That the City Clerk is authorized by this Ordinance to correct any scrivener's errors identified within this Ordinance.

[Remainder left intentionally blank]

Read, this first time on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Read, this second time, passed, and truly agreed to by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Willard, Missouri this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk