



AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

MEETING NAME:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	February 3, 2025
ITEM TITLE:	Consider and take appropriate action on Ordinance AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOLFFORTH, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 13 UTILITIES ARTICLE 13.05 WATER AND SEWER DIVISION 1 DEPOSITS AND ARTICLE 13.09 WATER ACCOUNTS AND BILLING; SETTING UTILITY DEPOSIT AMOUNTS; ESTABLISHING THE OWNER OF A PREMISES AS THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY; PROVIDING OF THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREIN; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
STAFF INITIATOR:	Terri Robinette, City Secretary

BACKGROUND:

Currently in our Utility Ordinance, we do not have any way to ensure that customers are not “property-hopping” or in other words, leave a balance due on their account at one location, and then move to another location. We have seen several Landlord accounts which have high balances due on inactive addresses, yet our current ordinance gives us no way to collect these past due balances before connecting service at a new property. The attached Ordinance was drafted by the City Attorney to fix this loophole. Any application for new service will trigger a check on the applicants name. If that applicant has a past due balance on an old, inactive account, this new Ordinance will give us the authority to collect that balance due or deny services until that balance is paid. Although we already turn inactive account balances over to a collections agency, Staff feels like this Ordinance will give us another tool to collect on bad debt.

EXHIBITS:

Ordinance

COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance