

**CITY OF MONROE
ORDINANCE NO. 012/2020**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 13.04 WATER REGULATIONS, RATES AND CHARGES AND CHAPTER 13.08 MMC SEWER SYSTEM REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR VACANCY CREDITS FOR UTILITY CUSTOMERS ON MILITARY DEPLOYMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FIXING A TIME WHEN THE SAME SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe owns and operates a water utility and a sanitary sewer utility, and has adopted and codified regulations governing said utilities at Chapter 13.04 MMC and 13.08 MMC, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend said regulations by providing vacancy credits for utility customers who are on long-term military deployments;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment to MMC 13.04.155. Section 13.04.155 of the Monroe Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

13.04.155 Vacation/vacancy credit.

A. Water utility accounts may be eligible for one of the following vacation/vacancy credits:

- 1. Single-family dwelling accounts shall be eligible for vacation/vacancy credits for any absence of thirty days or more with a maximum of ninety days in any concurrent twelve-month period.**
- 2. Low-income senior citizen accounts satisfying the criteria set forth in MMC 13.04.322(~~(, and city of Monroe irrigation accounts,)~~) shall be eligible for vacancy credits for any absence or nonuse of thirty days or more with a maximum of one hundred eighty days in any concurrent twelve-month period.**
- 3. City of Monroe irrigation accounts shall be eligible for vacancy credits for any absence or nonuse of thirty days or more with a maximum of one hundred eighty days in any concurrent twelve-month period.**
- 4. Single-family dwelling accounts shall be eligible for vacancy credits for any absence of thirty days or more when such absence is due to the property owner's deployment for active military duty, military reserve duty, and/or National Guard duty. The vacancy credit shall correspond to the deployment dates. A copy of the relevant deployment order must be provided to the finance director.**

B. Utility accounts must be current, no vacancy credits shall be granted for an account that is delinquent. Credits shall be computed on a percentage of days used. The city will provide a vacancy credit application in the event the city operates the utility and the contractor will provide a vacancy credit application in the event a contractor operates the utility. Vacancy credit applications must be filed forty-eight hours in advance. Persons filing vacancy credit applications found to be false shall, in addition to any other penalties, be ineligible to receive future vacancy credits. Failure to apply for continuation of services within seven days of the renewed occupancy of the premises shall result in charges being imposed for water services without regard for any period of vacancy.

Section 2. Amendment to MMC 13.08.475. Section 13.08.475 of the Monroe Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

13.08.475 Vacation/vacancy credit.

A. Sewer utility accounts may be eligible for one of the following vacation/vacancy credits:

- 1.** Single-family dwelling accounts shall be eligible for vacation/vacancy credits for any absence of thirty days or more with a maximum of ninety days in any concurrent twelve-month period.
- 2.** Low-income senior citizen accounts satisfying the criteria set forth in MMC 13.08.430(~~(, and city of Monroe irrigation accounts,)~~) shall be eligible for vacancy credits for any absence or nonuse of thirty days or more with a maximum of one hundred eighty days in any concurrent twelve-month period.
- 3. City of Monroe irrigation accounts shall be eligible for vacancy credits for any absence or nonuse of thirty days or more with a maximum of one hundred eighty days in any concurrent twelve-month period.**
- 4. Single-family dwelling accounts shall be eligible for vacancy credits for any absence of thirty days or more when such absence is due to the property owner's deployment for active military duty, military reserve duty, and/or National Guard duty. The vacancy credit shall correspond to the deployment dates. A copy of the relevant deployment order must be provided to the finance director.**

B. Utility accounts must be current, no vacancy credits shall be granted for an account that is delinquent. Credits shall be computed on a percentage of days used. The city will provide a vacancy credit application in the event the city operates the utility and the contractor will provide a vacancy credit application in the event a contractor operates the utility. Vacancy credit applications must be filed forty-eight hours in advance. Persons filing vacancy credit applications found to be false shall, in addition to any other penalties, be ineligible to receive future vacancy credits. Failure to apply for continuation of services within seven days of the renewed occupancy of the premises shall result in charges being imposed for sanitary sewer services without regard for any period of vacancy.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) days from and after its passage and approval and publication as required by law.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Monroe, at a regular meeting held this 22nd day of September, 2020.

First Reading: September 8, 2020
Adoption: September 22, 2020
Published: September 27, 2020
Effective: October 2, 2020

CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON:



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Becky Hasart (Sep 24, 2020 08:45 PDT)

Rabecca R. Hasart, Interim City Clerk



Zach Lell (Sep 24, 2020 08:48 PDT)

J. Zachary Lell, City Attorney