

ORDINANCE NO. 918

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1, OF CHAPTER 17 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MEADE, KANSAS, AUTHORIZING A UTILITY BUDGET PAY PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL UTILITY SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF MEADE, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF MEADE:

SECTION 1. Article 1 of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Meade, Kansas is hereby amended to include the following:

17-1.23 **UTILITY BUDGET PAY PROGRAM.**

A utility budget pay program is hereby adopted.

17-1.23.1 Application and conditions. The City shall offer a utility budget pay program for residential customers on the following terms and criteria:

- (i) The customer whose name appears on the utility contract cannot have been shut off for nonpayment in the previous 12 months.
- (ii) Where more than one residence is metered by a master meter, this plan shall not apply. (i.e., apartment buildings where all apartments share a single meter.)
- (iii) Applicants approved for the budget pay program prior to the tenth of the month will take effect on the following month's bill. Approved applications received after the tenth of the month will take effect two months later.

17-1.23.2 Renewal. The utility budget pay program shall automatically renew each March for customers in the program until written notice is received cancelling the agreement. The budget payment amount will be recalculated each March by taking an average of the 12 previous months, plus a factor of **10%**.

17.1.23.3 Payments. Budget payments shall be due each month, regardless of the account balance.

- (i) If the monthly utility budget payment is not made by the 10th of the month, penalties will be assessed and must be paid along with the past due budget payment.
- (ii) After the fourth Tuesday of each month, if payment is not made, the account will be subject to disconnect for nonpayment. If the account becomes delinquent and is turned off for nonpayment, the budget pay agreement shall be terminated and the full balance owed, including all applicable penalties, must be paid before utilities will be reinstated. The customer must wait for 12 months before reapplying for the budget pay program.

- (iii) Payments greater than the amount due will also be accepted. If a credit is shown, the payment due shall be deducted from that credit. Any credit balances remaining shall be applied to future budget payments.

17.1.23.4 Adjustments. Adjustments to the budget pay amount shall be made by the City Clerk if it is determined that the account is accruing either too large a deficit or too large a credit. No account shall carry more than a \$300.00 outstanding balance. If an account accrues \$300.00 or more in deficit, the customer shall be required to make a suitable payment to bring the account below the \$300.00 balance limit. **ALTERNATIVELY:** *No account shall carry more than 150% of the monthly budget pay amount. If an account accrues more than 150% of the monthly budget pay amount, the customer shall be required to make a suitable payment to bring the account below 150% of the monthly budget pay amount.*

17.1.23.5 Returned checks. If the customer writes a check to pay on an account, and that check is returned by the banking institution as a non-clearing item, the budget pay program shall be terminated immediately. The customer must pay all amounts owed, along with applicable penalties, and must wait 12 months before reapplying to the program again.

SECTION 2. REPEAL. Any ordinance or parts of ordinances specifically in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance insofar as they conflict, shall be and are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its summary of publication in the Official City Newspaper.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 11th DAY OF JULY, 2022.

JD HEGWOOD, Mayor

ATTEST:

JANET GLEASON, City Clerk

I, Janet Gleason, City Clerk of the City of Meade, Kansas, hereby verify and state that the foregoing is a true and correct original ordinance; that the record of final passage is found on page ____, volume “__” of the journal; that it was published in the Meade County News, the official paper on ____, 2022.

Ordinance No. 918 Summary

On July 11, 2022, the City of Meade, Kansas, passed Ordinance No. 918. An Ordinance Amending Article 1, of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Meade, Kansas, Authorizing a Utility Budget Pay Program for Residential Utility Services within the City of Meade, Kansas, and Repealing Ordinances in Conflict Therewith. A complete copy of the ordinance is available at www.cityofmeade.org or in the office of the city clerk, 132 S Fowler, free of charge. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legal, accurate and sufficient.

CLAY A. KUHNS, City Attorney