

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-05-024

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM RELATED TO BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 15.04, THE WATER AND SEWER ADMINISTRATION AND RATES, AND AMENDING SECTIONS 15.04.010 DEFINITIONS, AND 15.04.070 REDUCED RATES FOR LOW INCOME SENIOR AND DISABLED PERSONS.**

**WHEREAS**, Bellingham Municipal Code Chapter 15.04 was enacted as an exercise of the police power of the city, to protect and preserve the public peace, health, safety and welfare by regulating the city's water, sewer, and surface and storm water utility; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council concludes that an ordinance revision is required in order to reflect a change in the definition of a senior citizen as contained in Chapter 15.04.010; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council concludes that an ordinance revision is required in order to reflect an increase to the income limit for reduced utility rates for low income senior and disabled persons as authorized by Chapter 15.04.070;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:**

**Section 1.** Chapter 15.04.010 of the Bellingham Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

15.04.010 Definitions

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this title:

- A. **"Main"** means those pipes of the water distribution system and those pipes of the sewer and surface and storm water collection system located in a street, alley or dedicated easement, owned and/or maintained by the city.

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B. "Premises" means a single building site, or single lot or aggregation of lots tied together by agreement for the purposes of obtaining a building permit or utility service.

C "Unmetered duplex" means a single premises receiving water or water and sewer services, whose water service is not metered, and on which a duplex is located. This category includes only those duplexes receiving service as of June 15, 1981, the date the ordinance originally codified in this title was adopted.

[Ord. 2001-05-035; Ord. 2001-02-007 §1; Ord. 9618 §1, 1986; Ord. 8982 §1, 1981.]

**Section 2.** Chapter 15.04.070 of the Bellingham Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**15.04.070 Reduced Rates for Low Income Senior and Disabled Persons**

The owner of a single-family residence who meets the following criteria and income limits is entitled to a rate reduction for water, sewer and storm and surface water utilities.

A senior aged 62 or older or a disabled person with a household income of \$23,000 or less in 2003 (adjusted annually thereafter for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers for Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton) is entitled to have their rates reduced by the following amounts:

<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Percent Reduction</b>
0-50% of the qualifying income	75%
51%-75% of the qualifying income	50%
76%-100% of the qualifying income	25%

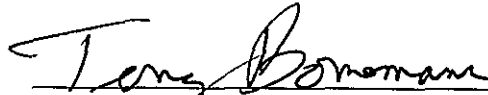
A non-resident property owner may also obtain the reduction if the premises are rented to a qualified senior or disabled person and the owner certifies the savings are passed to the senior or disabled renter.

Customers receiving the rate reduction must renew their application annually in accordance with administrative procedures promulgated by the Finance Director.

[Ord. 2001-02-007; Ord. 10056 §3 (part), 1990; Ord. 9846 §2, 1988; Ord. 9618 §3, 1986; Ord. 9371 §1 (part), 1984; Ord. 9164 §1, 1982; Ord. 8982 §7, 1981.]

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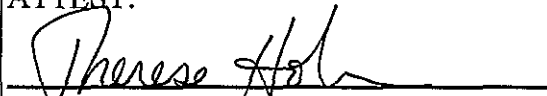
PASSED by Council this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2003.

  
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Council President

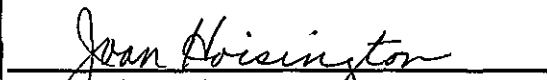
APPROVED by me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2003.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Attorney

Published:

May 16, 2003  
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