

## Ordinance No. 5870

**AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE TERMS OF THE WATER RATE RELIEF PROGRAM BY AMENDING SECTION 13.08.430C OF THE RAPID CITY MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, the City of Rapid City has established a Water Rate Relief Program to assist senior citizens and disabled citizens of Rapid City; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to change the program to give qualified applicants a two-year rate freeze instead of a one-year freeze; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council also wishes to allow the Public Works Director more flexibility in implementing policies and procedures related to the program; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council feels the program requirements may be simplified by tying them to the requirements of the State of South Dakota's Assessments Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Rapid City that Section 13.08.430C of the Rapid City Municipal Code is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

C. Water Rate Relief Program.

1. Residential water users can apply for a freeze on water monthly meter and unit charges. Eligibility for this program is based upon criteria outlined by the State of South Dakota Department of Revenue ~~and Regulation Property Tax Division~~ for the purpose of the ~~Freeze on Assessments of Dwellings of Disabled and Senior Citizens Assessments Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled Program~~ (hereinafter "State Program"). The Water Rate Relief Program shall be administered through the city Public Works Department. The Director of Public Works shall have the authority to establish policies and procedures for administration of the program ~~and to designate the program's calendar year~~. In order to qualify for the program an applicant must meet the following criteria:

a. Must either be 65 years of age or older or disabled as defined by the Social Security Act.

b. Income (applicant's federal adjusted gross income plus any other income including social security payments) ~~guidelines:~~ must meet the requirements set by the State Program.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ i. ~~Single income household: Less than \$24,599.44.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ii. ~~Multiple income household (must include income of all household members): \$30,749.30.~~

c. Applicant may own, rent, lease, or have a life estate in the property for which the freeze is applied for. Applicant must physically reside at the property. The water bill must be in the applicant's name. If the residence has multiple units, but is served by only 1 service line or meter, the residents of the property are not eligible for the program. If each unit has its own meter, the residents may be eligible for the program if they meet the other criteria. If the applicant owns or has a life estate in the property, it must have a fair market value ~~of less than \$168,855.21.~~ that meets the requirements set by the State Program. If the applicant rents or leases the property the rent or lease payment must be less than \$900 for a single person or less than \$1,200 for a multiple income household.

2. If an applicant qualifies for the program their water and meter rates will remain the same for a period of ~~1 year~~ 2 years or until the ~~yearly~~ renewal date established by the Public Works Director. The applicant must reapply at least every year 2 years, or more frequently as the policies established by the Public Works Director may require. If the fair market value of the applicant's property or the rent paid by them exceeds the threshold amounts, they can still qualify for the program if they were qualified in the immediately preceding ~~year~~ two years and remain domiciled in the same residence.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Officer

(SEAL)