Introduced August 25, 2026, by Councilman Fadely, seconded by Councilman Jones

Item No. 26-08-3663

ORDINANCE NO. 4306

An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Slidell, Chapter 28 with respect to certain fees and costs for City utility accounts, water connection and disconnection practices, and collection of debt, and to provide for ancillary matters related to utility billing in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, the City of Slidell provides water and sewer services to the majority of properties in its jurisdiction, and it also provides for contracted waste disposal services to single- and two-family residential structures in its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to amend the Code to update certain fees and costs associated with its utility oversight, to clarify its water connection and disconnection practices, to provide for the utilization of appropriate debt collection vehicles, and to account for related matters in connection therewith.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Slidell City Council, in legal session convened, that Chapter 28 of the City's Code of Ordinances is amended at the following sections/subsections to read as follows (additions underlined; deletions ~~struck through~~):

CHAPTER 28 - UTILITIES

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

~~**Secs. 28-1—28-20. – Reserved.**~~

Sec. 28-1. – Utility Billing: Generally.

City account holders at properties receiving water, sewer, solid waste removal, and/or recycling service from the city, or from any contractor providing such service(s) on

behalf of the city, shall be billed by the city, *in globo*, on a monthly basis for any and all such service(s).

Sec. 28-2. – Utility Billing: Timely Payment.

City utility bills are due on or before the 20th day of each month, with payment being in arrears. It is the affirmative obligation of every account holder for city provided utilities to pay the bill for the utilities on or before the due date, with payment to be physically received by the city, or electronically posted, on or before the due date to be considered timely. Failure to pay the bill in full by the due date, including for reasons of insufficient funds, shall result in an automatic late fee of 10% of the past due amount being added to the next month's bill, in addition to the amounts otherwise due and owing. Any utility payment rejected due to insufficient funds on account shall also result in a $25.00 insufficient fund fee being added to the next month's bill.

Sec. 28-3. – Disconnection of Water Service for Failure to Timely Pay.

The sending by the city to an account holder receiving water services from the city, at the address on file with the city for such account holder, of any city utility bill showing a past due amount shall constitute the city's formal notice of account delinquency and pending water service disconnection. Should the city not receive payment in full of all amounts then outstanding on the account or before the date which is 15 days after the due date of the utility bill reflecting a past-due amount, the city shall be entitled to disconnect the account holder's water services without further notice of any kind to the account holder. Should an account holder wish to dispute the amount owed as reflected on any utility-bill, the account holder must contact the city's finance department at the phone number reflected on the bill on or before the running of the aforementioned 15-day period, and any disconnection will be stayed pending the department's decision on the disputed amount.

Sec. 28-4. – Debt Recovery.

The city's administration is authorized to utilize and undertake all remedies available under Louisiana law to recover debt owed to the city, including but not limited to entering into any debt recovery agreement with the State of Louisiana or any of the State's agencies, departments, offices, or political subdivisions.

Secs. 28-5—28-20. – Reserved.

ARTICLE II. – WATER

DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY

* * * *

Sec. 28-26. - Work done by city in ~~connecting and~~ disconnecting and reconnecting water services; fees; connection days generally.

If water service to a customer is ~~scheduled to be discontinued~~ disconnected by the city due to nonpayment or late payment of the ~~water bill~~ utility account, a service charge of ~~$50.00~~35.00 shall be charged to such customer for the disconnect, and a service charge of $35.00 shall be charged to such customer for any reconnect. No reconnect will be performed by the city until the city confirms all outstanding amounts have been paid with sufficient funds. An account that has been disconnected for more than two weeks shall be considered to be closed. Any request after that two week period by the account holder for reconnection shall be considered a request for new service and subject to the administrative fee of section 28-28; however, all outstanding amounts owed by the account holder on the prior account must also be paid to open the account.

Water connections and reconnections shall be performed by the city Monday through Friday of each week during the city's normal business hours, provided such days are not city holidays. Notwithstanding the foregoing, city administration may, in its discretion, authorize city workers to perform water connections and reconnections at additional times.

* * * *

Sec. 28-28. – Administrative fee for new accounts; property owner responsibilitye ~~for water charges~~.

Water customers shall be charged a $60.00 administrative fee for the establishment of all new accounts. To the extent allowed by Louisiana law, ~~All~~should the account holder not be the owner of the property at which services are being delivered, the property owner(s) of said property shall also be held responsible with the account holder for the payment for all ~~water~~ utilities furnished by the city to ~~their~~ property owner's ~~premises~~property.

* * * *

Sec. 28-31. ~~– Reduction on prepared bills.~~ Reserved.

~~(a) All customers of the city who prepay their water, garbage and sewerage bill for one year shall receive a five percent reduction on such bill.~~

~~(b) In addition to specific authority granted elsewhere in this section, the director of finance of the city is authorized to promulgate, make and publish reasonable rules and regulations for the purpose of the proper administration and enforcement of this section, provided that such rules and regulations shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this section or other ordinances of this city, or the laws and constitution of the state.~~

* * * *

The amendments set forth in this ordinance shall become effective March 1, 2027.

ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2026.

Thomas "Trey" Brownfield III
President of the Council
Councilman, District F

Randy Fandal
Mayor

Thomas P. Reeves
Council Administrator

DELIVERED 9/15/26
8:40 am to the Mayor
RECEIVED 9/15/26
12:50 pm from the Mayor