**CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE NEED FOR A UTILITY RATE REDUCTION FOR LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZENS**

**WHEREAS**, RCW 74.38.070 provides authority for cities, counties, public utility districts, and any other municipal corporation or quasi-municipal corporation providing utility services to offer reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Battle Ground, Washington, finds that it is appropriate for the city of Battle Ground to establish reduced rates for utilities provided by the city to low-income senior citizens of the city.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Battle Ground, Washington as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

A. "Low-Income Senior Citizen" means a person who:
   a. Resides within the city of Battle Ground
   b. Is the head of household
   c. Is 62 years of age or older
   d. Receives utility services from the city of Battle Ground
   e. Who have an annual income that, when combined with the annual income of all household members, meet the eligibility standards as outlined in Section 2 herein.

Section2. Utility Rate Reduction. Upon verification of eligibility, the household may receive a 25 percent reduction of their water, sewer, and storm water drainage utility billing. Eligibility will be verified October of each year.

A. Eligibility:
   a. Must be a low-income senior citizen of the city of Battle Ground; and
   b. Total household income shall not exceed the limits set annually by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development listed below for "very low" income as now existing or as hereafter amended.

| If the number of people in the household is: | Then the total income of everyone living in the household must be equal to or less than:* |
|---|---|
| 1 | $30,800 |
| 2 | $35,200 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | $39,600 |
| 4 | $43,950 |
| 5 | $47,500 |
| 6 | $51,000 |
| 7 | $54,500 |
| 8 | $58,050 |

*Total income includes, but is not limited to: Wages, salaries, social security or pension benefits, bank interest, capital gains from investments, rental or business income, and IRA distributions for ALL household members.

B. Applicable Utilities:
   a. City of Battle Ground sewer charges for single-family residential customers are based upon the customer's average winter water usage (Dec-Mar), provided that each customer is subject to a minimum volume charge of 6 units per month (1 unit = 748 gallons), when no usage history exists.
   b. If winter usage, as defined above, exceed the volume charge of 6 units per month, no rate reduction applies for water, sewer, or storm drainage utilities. If usage is below the defined usage, the rate reduction applies for water, sewer, and storm drainage utilities.

C. Application Process:
   a. Applications for utility discounts shall be obtained from and filed with the City of Battle Ground utility/finance department. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Finance Director, and shall contain the information necessary to evaluate the applicant's qualification for reduced utility rates.
   b. Submission of an application for a utility discount shall constitute a verification by the applicant that all information provided in such application is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.
   c. Applicants will complete the application and return to utility billing at the Battle Ground City Hall. In addition to the completed application, the applicant will need to bring a picture ID, and provide income verification materials as requested in the application.
   d. For new applicants the discount will pertain to the first full month following the application approval date. Every year thereafter applicants will need to provide the required documentation by October 31 at 5:00pm to be eligible for the following year beginning January 1st.
   e. Once the application is received, the final approval will be conducted the Finance Director. The applicant will be notified by the City whether they are approved or the reason for the denial.

Section3. Administrative Rules and Procedures. Pursuant to this section, the Finance Director shall promulgate administrative rules and procedures not inconsistent with this section to implement the utility rate reduction program.

Section4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be in full force and effect January 1, 2020.

**DONE IN OPEN MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON HELD THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER 2019.**

Approved:

Mike Dalesandro, Mayor

Attest:

Kay Kammer, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Christine Hayes, City Attorney