

**CITY OF WHITE SALMON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06-1142**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON, WA, AMENDING WHITE SALMON MUNICIPAL CODE 13.16.095 – 13.16.101, LOW-INCOME SENIOR AND DISABLED RESIDENTS DISCOUNT PROGRAM, REPEALING SECTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of White Salmon has an annual increase to the utility rates due to estimated \$45 million dollars in necessary water and wastewater infrastructure improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of White Salmon currently offers a Low-Income Utility Discount to Senior and Disabled Residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the hardship utility rate increase can be for all Low-Income utility users; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to offer these reductions to offset utility rate increases and provide more equity to disproportionately affected communities;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITE SALMON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

The City Council of the City of White Salmon that the following amendments be made to White Salmon Municipal Code Chapter 13.16:

**SECTION 1 – Amendment to WSMC 13.16.095 – 13.16.101**

Sections 13.16.095 – 13.16.101 is hereby repealed and amended to read:

Key: Underlined = added language  
~~Strikethrough~~ = deleted language

**13.16.095 Police Policy for discounts established.**

Provision for discounts to the billings for water and wastewater utility services for ~~ertain~~-low-income ~~senior or low-income disable citizens~~ households is adopted in order to provide necessary support for such ~~individuals~~ households. Such reductions are intended to offset rate increases.

**13.16.096 Low-Income Senior ~~Citizen~~ Resident Utility Discount Qualifications.**

~~To qualify for the discount, a low-income senior citizen shall show satisfactory proof that he or she meets all of the following criteria:~~

**A. For the purposes of implementing water and sewer utility rate reductions under the provisions of this section, “Low Income Senior Resident” shall meet the following criteria:**

1. Is sixty-two years of age or older;
2. Has an annual household income of ~~seventy-five~~ eighty percent (80%) or less than the medium family income for Klickitat County as provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
3. Is a single occupant or the head of a household or the spouse of the head of the household;
4. Resides in the dwelling unit as the applicant’s primary residence and does not rent the residence during the applicant’s absence; and
5. Is billed or is the spouse of a person billed by the water and wastewater utility.

B. Applicants shall verify such information to the satisfaction of the city and shall provide such other data as is deemed appropriate upon forms prepared, and in the manner determined, by the city.

**13.16.097 Low-Income Disabled ~~Citizen~~ Resident Utility Discount Qualifications.**

~~To qualify for the discount, a low-income disabled citizen shall show satisfactory proof that he or she meets all of the following criteria:~~

**A. For the purposes of implementing water and sewer utility rate reductions under the provisions of this section, “Low Income Disabled Resident” shall meet the following criteria:**

1. **For purposes of this chapter, the following person are defined as disabled;**
  - i. **A person who has qualified and received special parking privileges under RCW 46.19.381(1(a) through 46.19.381(1)(g).**
  - ii. **A blind person as defined in RCW 74.18.020(4).**
  - iii. **A person who has a development disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(3).**
  - iv. **A person who is gravely disabled as a result of a mental disorder as defined in RCW 71.05.020(16).**

- v. **A person who has qualified and receives social security benefits due to disability; and**
- B. Has an annual household income of ~~seventy-five~~ **eighty** percent **(80%)** or less than the medium family income for Klickitat County as provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and
- C. Is a single-occupant or the head of a household or the spouse of the head of the household; and
- D. Resides in the dwelling unit as the applicant's primary residence and does not rent the residence during the applicant's absence; and
- E. Is billed or is the spouse of a person billed by the water and wastewater utility.
- F. Applicants shall verify such information to the satisfaction of the city and shall provide such other data as is deemed appropriate upon forms prepared, and in the manner determined, by the city.

**13.16.098 Discount applies to water and wastewater utility services.**

**Persons ~~Households~~** qualified by the city as eligible recipients of a low-income ~~senior or low-income disabled citizen resident~~ discount provided for in **chapter 13.16** shall be granted a discount against the base charges assessed for water and wastewater utility services under this chapter.

**13.16.099 Discount rate for Qualified Low-Income Senior Residents and Qualified Low-Income Disabled Residents.**

The clerk-treasurer is authorized to discount the base rate for water and wastewater utility services to qualified low-income seniors or low-income disabled residents as provided below, provided, however, that there shall not be more than one such discount per household.

- A. Persons qualified by the city as eligible low-income seniors or low-income disabled **citizens residents** with an annual household income of fifty percent **(50%)** or less than the median family income for Klickitat County as provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall receive a discount of fifty percent **(50%)** on the base residential water and wastewater fees.
- B. Persons qualified by the city as eligible low-income seniors or low-income disabled **citizens residents** with an annual household income between ~~seventy-five~~ **eighty** percent **(80%)** and fifty-one percent **(51%)** of the median family income for Klickitat County as provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall receive a discount of twenty-five **(25%)** percent on the base residential water and wastewater fees.

### 13.16.100 Utility Rate Reduction for Low-Income Households

The clerk-treasurer is authorized to discount the base rate for water and wastewater utility services to qualified low-income households as provided below, provided, however, that there shall not be more than one such discount per household.

A. Definitions. For the purposes of implementing water and sewer utility rate reductions under the provisions of this section, the following words or phrases shall have the following definitions:

1. "Low-income citizen" shall mean a person who has established White Salmon as their residence and whose total disposable income including that of their spouse or cotenant does not exceed the eighty percent (80%) of the median household income for Klickitat County per the most current census data.
2. "Residence" means a single-family dwelling unit whether such unit be separate or part of a multiunit dwelling.
3. "Combined disposable income" means adjusted gross income as defined in the federal internal revenue code

B. Low-income residents shall be given reductions in the water and sewer utility base rates as those rates are established by the city council:

1. A rate reduction of twenty five percent (25%) shall be afforded to those low-income residents who meet the qualifying income and asset levels of eighty percent (80%) of the median household income for Klickitat County.
2. No rate reduction shall be afforded to any person shown as a dependent on the income tax return of any other individual, whether or not such person resides at the location for which the rate reduction is sought, unless the total combined disposable income of the applicant, along with their spouse, cotenant and all family members shown on the income tax return in which the applicant is shown as a dependent, meets the standards established by this section.

C. Applicants shall verify such information to the satisfaction of the city and shall provide such other data as is deemed appropriate upon forms prepared, and in the manner determined, by the city.

### ~~13.16.100 Definition of disabled persons.~~

~~For purposes of this chapter, the following person are defined as disabled;~~

- A. ~~A person who has qualified and received special parking privileges under RCW 46.19.381(1)(a) through 46.19.381(1)(g).~~
- B. ~~A blind person as defined in RCW 74.18.020(4).~~
- C. ~~A person who has a development disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(3).~~
- D. ~~A person who is gravely disabled as a result of a mental disorder as defined in RCW 71.05.020(16).~~
- E. ~~A person who has qualified and receives social security benefits due to disability.~~

**13.16.101 Application process for discounts.**

- A. Applications shall be made using the Washington State LILHEAP “Household Information Form” or the City of White Salmon Low-Income Discount Application on ~~an annual~~ **biennial** basis.
- B. Applications shall be submitted to the city. By submitting an application, the applicant authorizes the city to refer the application to the Washington Gorge Action Programs or other appropriate entity to process the application.
- C. Washington Gorge Action Programs will review and screen those applications for eligibility.

Washington Gorge Action Programs will submit a list of names and addresses to the city of White Salmon of those who ~~appear to~~ qualify for a low-income ~~senior or low-income disabled persons~~ discount.

- D. Accounts will be approved for a 2-year period of time. Re-application will be required upon expiration of approval.**

**SECTION 2 - SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, sentence, or phrase of this Chapter is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, or phrase of this Chapter.

**SECTION 3 - EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2023 following publication as provided by law.

PASSED in regular session this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Hartmann, Mayor Pro Temp

Attested:

Approved as to form:

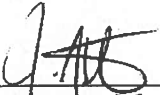
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Porter, Clerk/Treasurer

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Shawn MacPherson, City Attorney

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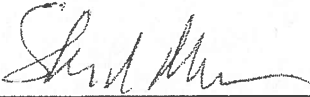
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