Resolution#

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK AMENDING TO WAIVE INTEREST ON UTILITY BILLS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2020, New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy issued Executive Order No. 190, banning the imposition of interest, charges or late fees on municipal "*water*" accounts for "*residential*" customers of that became delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, customers for the Township of North Brunswick are served by both municipal water and sanitary sewer utilities; and

WHEREAS, according to Executive Order No. 190 this ban was to remain in effect through March 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs issued guidance to municipal utility collectors on November 6, 2020, indicating that municipal "*sanitary sewer*" utility accounts were <u>not</u> subject to the ban on interest, charges and late fees issued in Governor Murphy's Executive Order No. 190; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Executive Order No. 190 did not ban the imposition of interest, charges or other late fees on "*commercial*" water accounts or sewer accounts; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2020, pursuant to Resolution 287-12.20, the Mayor and Council extended beyond Executive Order 190, and authorized the waiver of any interest, charges or late fees on *all* municipal utility accounts for water and sewer that became delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency through March 15, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 229, extending a moratorium set to end March 15, 2021 under Executive Order No. 190 through at least June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2021, NJ Bill A4671 (S3326) passed by the Assembly and Senate would provide for additional financial relief for residents serviced by a public water utility until 18 months after the date of Executive Order No. 103, issued March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby acknowledge and support recent actions by the State's elected officials and wish to provide continued financial assistance to customers of the North Brunswick utility systems, and authorized the waiver of any interest, charges or late fees on *all* municipal utility accounts for water and sewer that became delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency through September 30, 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in consideration of Executive Order No. 229 and anticipated guidance from the Department of Community Affairs with pending bills A4671 (S3326), the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick does hereby authorize the waiver of any interest, charges or late fees on *all* municipal utility accounts that are delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency through September 30, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, CFO, Clerk, and Utility Collector may execute any and all documents in connection with this resolution.

Resolution#

Justine Progebin Business Administrator Ronald Gordon, Esq. Township Attorney Approved as to legal form

RECORDED VOTE:

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	NOTES
MEHTA				
LOPEZ				
GUADAGNINO				
ANDREWS				
DAVIS				
SOCIO				
MAYOR WOMACK				

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex, at its meeting held on May 3, 2021.

Lisa Russo Township Clerk