Resolution#

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK CONFIRMING THE WAIVER OF INTEREST ON WATER UTILITY BILLS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC THROUGH MARCH 2022

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 municipal utilities for both water and sanitary sewer; and

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

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs issued guidance to municipal utility collectors, 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 the 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 June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2021, NJ Bill A4671 passed by the Assembly and S3326 by the Senate provided for additional financial relief for residents serviced by a public water utility until 18 months after the date of the initial Executive Order No. 103 addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, issued March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2021, pursuant to Resolution 145-5.21, 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 through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2021, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 246 modifying Executive Order No. 229 to provide "a grace period to be in effect from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2021, pursuant to Ordinance 21-19, the Mayor and Council authorized the waiver of any interest, charges or late fees on *water* municipal utility accounts for water and sewer that became delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency through December 31, 2021; and

Resolution#

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2021, pursuant to Ordinance 21-19, the Mayor and Council authorized the waiver of any interest, charges or late fees on *water* municipal utility accounts for water and sewer that became delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency through December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2021, Senate Bill 4081 instituted measures for extending relief to residential customers of local government water, sewer, and electric service through March 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have continued to support these actions by the State's elected officials and hereby confirm they are providing continued financial assistance to customers of the North Brunswick water and sewer utility systems, and have 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 through the March 30, 2022 bill cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick does hereby confirm the waiver of any interest, charges or late fees on *all* municipal utility accounts that are delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic through the March 30, 2022 bill cycle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, CFO, Clerk, and Utility Collector may execute any and all documents in connection with this 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				
SOCIO				
DAVIS				
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 February 7, 2022.