

City of Holland Local State of Emergency

Resolution 2020.11

Declared by the Mayor and Extended by the Holland City Council on April 1, 2020

AUTHORITY FOR ACTION:

On March 10, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 1, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency, Mayor Nathan Bocks declared a Local State of Emergency, conferring certain powers to “make, amend, or rescind ordinances or rules necessary for emergency management purposes” jointly to the Mayor and City Manager as allowed under the State of Michigan Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, and also the City of Holland Emergency Management Plan. The Holland City Council then adopted Resolution 2020.11 on April 1, 2020, which in part extended the local state of emergency until May 7, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

Chapter 12, Section 12.17 of the City Charter reads “With the approval of the council, the board of public service [works] shall fix the rates to be charged for all public utility services under its control. The council shall fix the rates to be charged for all public utility services of the city which are not under the control of the board of public service [works]. When any person, firm, or corporation, shall fail or refuse to pay to the city any sums due on utility bills, such service upon which such delinquency exists may be shut off or discontinued by the proper board or department of the city and suit may be instituted by the city for the collection of the same in any court of competent jurisdiction.”

Resolution #R2019.74, approved by Council on December 18, 2019, establishes various fees required by Ordinance for services of the City, including fees for residential refuse customers and business licenses.

EMERGENCY ACTION 2020-2: Board of Public Works and City Rates and Fees

The Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) and City rates and fees that are specifically to be altered during the COVID-19 pandemic are as follows:

HBPW Residential Customers

1. It is current HBPW policy to not shut off residential customers for non-payment between November 1 and April 15 each year. HBPW will extend the non-shut off period for residential electric customers until the later of June 15 or until Executive Order 2020-21 referencing the closure of non-essential businesses is lifted (See Section 5.7.1 of the HBPW Electric Terms of Service). HBPW will also monitor the status of Executive Order 2020-28 regarding the shut off of Residential water customers and follow guidance provided by the State of Michigan. In any event, the HBPW will extend the non-shut off for water until at least June 15.

2. HBPW will pause the implementation of late fees and interest on overdue bills for all Residential customers starting April 1, 2020, and until the non-shut off period for Electric customer's ends. For clarification, existing late fees and interest charges that were accrued prior to April 1, 2020 will remain on the balance due (See Section 8.4 of the HBPW Electric Terms of Service).

Commercial and Industrial Customers

1. HBPW will implement a non-shut off period for Commercial and Industrial electric and water customers until the later of June 15 or until Executive Order 2020-21 is lifted.
2. HBPW will pause the implementation of late fees and interest on overdue bills for Commercial and Industrial customers starting April 1, 2020, and until the non-shut off period referenced in #1 above ends. For clarification, existing late fees and interest charges that were accrued prior to April 1 will remain on the balance due.
3. HBPW will suspend the Minimum On-Peak Billing Demand for delivery and capacity charges for Rate M and K customers until the later of August 31, 2020, or until Executive Order 2020-21 is lifted.

City Residential Refuse Customers

1. On behalf of the City, HBPW will temporarily suspend late fees and interest on overdue bills for City refuse customers during the pause in late fees associated with other utilities as outlined in bullet #2 for Residential Customers above.

City Business Licenses

1. The City will temporarily suspend late fees and interest on overdue bills for City business licenses during the pause in late fees associated with other utilities as outlined in bullet #2 for Residential Customers above.

Executed by us on April 8, 2020.



Keith Van Beek
City Manager

Date: April 8, 2020



Nathan Bocks
Mayor

Date: April 8, 2020