

RESOLUTION 2021-106
RESOLUTION WAIVING INTEREST ON WATER BILLS DURING PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy issued Executive Order No. 229, banning the imposition of interest, charges or late fees on residential users' municipal water accounts that are delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 229 superseded New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy's Executive Order No. 190, which was issued on October 15, 2020, and also banned the imposition of interest, charges or late fees on residential users' municipal water accounts that are delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency; and

WHEREAS, according to Executive Order No. 229 this ban was to remain in effect through June 30, 2021; and

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha has its own municipal water and sanitary sewer utilities; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 229 does not ban the imposition of interest, charges or late fees on commercial users' municipal water accounts that are delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Alpha desires to not impose interest, charges or late fees on any delinquent commercial water account(s) during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency for the sake of efficiency in the administration of its utility accounts; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, Governor Murphy signed legislation A5820/S3866 into law and issued Executive Order 244, terminating the Public Health Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (pursuant to the EHPA, *N.J.S.A. 26:13-1, et seq.*) but extending the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (pursuant to *N.J.S.A. App A.:9-33, et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy signed legislation A5820/S3866 into law and consistent with his Executive Order 244, Executive Order No. 229 has been kept in place and extended to January 1, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, due to the State of Emergency continuing in effect and in consideration of and compliance with Executive Order No. 229, law A5820/S3866 and Executive Order 244 and the prior guidance from the Department of Community Affairs, the Borough of Alpha hereby waives any interest, charges or late fees on all municipal water

accounts that are delinquent during the COVID-19 pandemic (the Public Health Emergency) and now the continued State of Emergency through January 1, 2022. If the delinquency on the account(s) is not paid in full by January 1, 2022, interest due shall revert back to the original due date or payment date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of Alpha will continue to impose interest, charges or late fees on all municipal sanitary sewer or wastewater accounts that are delinquent during the State of Emergency extended by law.

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

CERTIFICATION

I, Donna L. Messina, Registered Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Alpha, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Common Council at a meeting of said Common Council on June 15, 2021, and that said Resolution was adopted by not less than the legal vote needed of the members of the Council.

Donna L. Messina, Registered Municipal Clerk
*Witness my hand and seal of the Borough of Alpha
this 15th day of June 2021*