

PASSED: 8-4-2025

**AN ORDINANCE NO. 2025-17**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 82 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JASPER, GEORGIA; TO ESTABLISH UPDATED REGULATIONS RELATING TO UTILITY BILLING, DUE DATES, DISCONNECTION PROCEDURES, RECONNECTION FEES AND LIMITATIONS, AND CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIFIC GROUNDS FOR DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE INCLUDING NONPAYMENT, VIOLATIONS OF CITY RULES OR POLICIES, AND TAMPERING WITH EQUIPMENT; TO ESTABLISH LIFE-SAFETY PROTECTIONS FOR MEDICALLY VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, INCLUDING CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE FINES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jasper, Georgia, pursuant to the City Charter, and general state law, operates utilities;

**WHEREAS**, the operation of the utilities is dependent upon the City of Jasper receiving compensation for providing services to its consumers.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Jasper finds that it is appropriate to enact certain regulations in order to allow the City to clarify and modernize its regulations concerning billing cycles, delinquency, disconnection and reconnection procedures, and customer obligations;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council further finds that the protection of medically vulnerable customers and the establishment of clear enforcement mechanisms, including administrative penalties, are in the public interest;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the City Charter and general state law as follows:

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO UTILITIES ORDINANCE**

The Utilities Ordinance of the City of Jasper, Georgia, as designated and referenced within Chapter 82 of the Code of Ordinances, is hereby amended by deleting in its entirety, Sections 82-1 through 82-3 and substituting in lieu thereof, new Sections 82-1(a)-(f), 82-2(a)-(f), 82-3(a)-(d) and which shall be as follows:

**SECTION 82-1.     RECONNECTION FEES**

(a) If utility service is disconnected for nonpayment, it shall not be reconnected or resumed until all past due amounts and applicable reconnection fees are paid in full. The reconnection fee shall be \$50.00.

(b) Reconnection of service shall only occur between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

(c) The city will not restore service during non-business hours or on weekends. If payment is made via the online portal, it is the customer's responsibility to contact City Hall for reconnection.

(d) Disconnection of service shall not relieve the customer of payment for usage already incurred.

(e) Payments made by check and returned due to insufficient funds shall incur a returned check fee of \$35.00, and service may be disconnected without further notice.

(f) If service is disconnected for nonpayment and is not restored prior to the next bill due date on the 10th, a closing letter shall be mailed and the account will be finalized by the 20th of the month.

**SECTION 82-2.     BILLING; DELINQUENCY; PENALTIES**

(a) Utility bills shall be mailed on the 25th day of each month and shall be due on the 10th day of the following month. Service may be disconnected if unpaid after the 20th of the month.

(b) If a utility bill is not paid by the 10th of the month, the customer shall have ten (10) days from the original due date to make payment before the account is subject to disconnection. If the cut-off due date falls on a weekend or holiday, it shall be moved to the next business day.

(c) If the 20th day of the month falls on a weekend or a city-recognized holiday, the disconnection date shall be moved to the next business day.

(d) Utility service shall not be disconnected on a Friday or the day immediately preceding a holiday and will be disconnected on the next business day.

(e) Failure by the customer to receive a utility bill does not relieve the customer of the obligation to pay the amount due. Utility bills are recurring monthly charges.

(f) The clerk of the water and wastewater department or other duly authorized collector of water and sewer charges for the City, as to any delinquent water and sewer charges of a property owner (not a tenant), is authorized to place a fi. fa. on the property where the service was received and will maintain a docket on delinquent water and sewer bills which will be available for

examination, and furthermore, will charge the property owner, in addition to his delinquent water and sewer bill, any costs for the execution of the fi. fa. and maintenance of such docket.

- (g) Utility service may be disconnected for any of the following reasons:
1. Nonpayment of utility charges;
  2. Failure to comply with the City's utility rules, regulations, or policies;
  3. Tampering with utility equipment or theft of service.

**SECTION 82-3.      LIABILITY OF OWNER FOR PAYMENT; EXCEPTIONS;  
CUSTOMER OBLIGATIONS; LIFE-SAFETY  
PROTECTIONS**

(a) The City of Jasper shall not disconnect service to any customer who relies on a life support system or dialysis machine, provided the customer has notified the city and submitted proper documentation.

(b) If a customer anticipates being unable to make payment, it is the customer's responsibility to contact the City of Jasper Customer Support Department prior to the scheduled disconnection date.

(c) One payment arrangement will be allowed during any six-month period. Payment arrangements must be made prior to the arrival of a utility field technician at the residence.

(d) The City of Jasper shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from disconnection of service.

**SECTION 2.      REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES TO THE  
EXTENT OF THE CONFLICT**

All parts of ordinances in conflict with the terms of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict, but it is hereby provided that any ordinance or law which may be applicable hereto and aid in carrying out and making effective the intent, purpose and provisions hereof, is hereby adopted as a part hereof and shall be legally construed to be in favor of upholding this ordinance on behalf of the City of Jasper, Georgia.

**SECTION 3.      SEVERABILITY**

If any paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause or phrase, or any portion of this ordinance should be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction or if the provisions of any part of this ordinance as applied to any particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the provisions of this ordinance not so held to be invalid, or the application of this ordinance to other circumstances not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the City Council of the City of Jasper Georgia to provide for separate and divisible parts, and it does hereby adopt any and all parts hereof as may not be held invalid for any reason.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The effective date of this ordinance shall be upon its passage by the City Council.

**SO ORDAINED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

**JASPER CITY COUNCIL**

By:   
Mayor

  
Councilperson

  
Councilperson

  
Councilperson

  
Councilperson

Anne Snere - Absent  
Councilperson



Attest:

  
City Clerk Lorrie Waters