

CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

ORDINANCE NO. 060-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 10,016-22 CODIFIED  
ORDINANCE §911.03 “RATE REDUCTION FOR DISABLED PERSONS  
AND SENIOR CITIZENS” FOR WATER AND SEWER DISCOUNTS AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford recognizes the need to assist Bedford Senior Citizens and the permanently disabled whose income levels are not sufficient to pay normal water/sewer rates, and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford intends to provide a **30 percent discount (30%)** in water/sewer **base** rates to the following individuals:

1. Applicant must be age 65 or older or have been declared 100 percent (100%) totally and permanently disabled by a State or Federal Agency having the function of so classifying persons per Ohio Revised Code 323.151.
2. Applicant, their spouse and any other household members over the age of 18 residing in the premises must have a **combined household income of less than \$36,804** for the year 2022 to receive the discount in the year 2024.
3. Applicant must own and occupy the residence i.e., residents residing in rental property do not qualify for the water/sewer discount.
4. Applicant, their spouse and any other household members, over the age of 18 residing in the premises, combined must not have more than \$3,000 per year in dividend and interest income.
5. Applicant and/or their spouse must not be delinquent on municipal income taxes owed to the City of Bedford and further must not be behind or delinquent more than three months on their City of Bedford water/sewer bill in order to keep their eligibility for the water/sewer discount. Accordingly, once the delinquency is paid in full by the applicant and their spouse, the discount will be reinstated (not retroactively).

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford has determined that the definition of income includes, but is not limited to, wages, salaries, refunds, credit from the State of Ohio and local income taxes, alimony, all types of business income, capital gains, IRA distributions, pensions, annuities, rental real estate, royalties, partnership income, S corporation income, limited liability corporations, Ohio Lottery prize winnings and other gambling (games of chance) income, dividend income, trust income, farm income, interest income, unemployment compensation, social security benefits, annual employer portion of disability benefits greater than \$5,200, (Excludes Workers Compensation, Veterans and Welfare benefits) insurance contracts and any other income earned by applicant and their spouses or household members over the age of 18, including but not limited to income as defined in Chapter 178, and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford has determined that the household income threshold of **\$36,804.00** will be increased annually in January of each and every year by the lower of three (3) percent or the change in the annual Midwest Urban Consumer Price Index measured for each fiscal year, and

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WHEREAS, the City of Bedford has determined that eligibility for the water/sewer discount in any year is based on income from two years earlier, and

WHEREAS, in seeking to obtain water/sewer discounts commencing in 2024, all eligible applicants must file an annual application to receive the water/sewer discount prior to the last Friday in September in the previous calendar year, based upon income earned in calendar year 2022. For example, to receive the water/sewer discount in 2024, the applicant must file the water/sewer application at any time prior to the last Friday in September in the year 2023, and

WHEREAS, any applicant willfully falsifying information revokes the right to a reduction for 3 years, and

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford has determined that a surviving spouse of a water/sewer discount recipient between the ages of 59 and 64 shall be entitled to continue to receive the discount benefits provided the above criteria is met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Bedford, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio:

Section 1. The Council of the City of Bedford authorizes the Finance Director to implement the water/sewer rate discount to eligible applicants.

Section 2. This ordinance supersedes any prior ordinances that may be in conflict with the provisions contained in this ordinance.

Section 3. That actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this legislation were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio revised Code.

Section 4. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the public peace, health safety and welfare of the City of Bedford and further reason that Council for the City of Bedford desires to immediately implement these water/sewer rate discounts.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage.

1<sup>st</sup> Rdg: 8/7/23

2<sup>nd</sup> Rdg. 8/10/23

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Stanley C. Koci, Mayor-President of Council

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Tracy M. Simons, Clerk of Council

Prepared and approved as to legal content by: \_\_\_\_\_  
John J. Montello, Law Director

PASSED: September 5, 2023