

SPONSORED BY:

MAYOR BROWN

COUNCILOR CHIN



ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA,
ADDING A NEW SECTION 23-90, VOLUNTARY PROGRAM FOR
COLLECTION OF FUNDS TO HELP THE NEEDY WITH NEPTUNE
BEACH UTILITY BILLS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2(b), Article VIII of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 166 of the Florida Statutes, the City of Neptune Beach (the "City") possesses the powers to enact ordinances in order to perform municipal functions and render municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the City operates water, sewer, and stormwater utilities within the City and charges such utilities to its citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, the City contracts for garbage, yard debris, and recycling collection and disposal and charges such services to its citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City determines that certain residents may from time to time require financial assistance in order to meet their payment obligations for such utilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a program to facilitate the collection of contributions to a fund to assist such needy citizens and residents in meeting such obligations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires that such program be implemented and administered by the City Manager or their designee and utilize the assistance of a needs assessment agency in determining those citizens and residents who qualify for assistance pursuant to the guidelines to be adopted for such program; and

WHEREAS, proper notice has been given of the public hearings of this proposed ordinance and of the public hearings in the City Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, the public hearings were held pursuant to the published notice described at which hearings the parties in interest and all others had an opportunity to be and were, in fact, heard; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Neptune Beach, Florida finds and declares that this ordinance is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens and residents of the City, that it advances a significant and important governmental interest, and that it furthers the City's performance of municipal functions and rendering of municipal services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

**CHAPTER 23 - UTILITIES
ARTICLE IV – WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CHARGES**

Sec. 23-90. Neptune in Need Program.

(a) Name.

The name of the program described in this section shall be the "Neptune in Need Program" (the "Program").

(b) Purpose.

The purpose of the Program is to assist needy residents and citizens of the City in paying their water, sewer, stormwater, garbage, yard waste, recycling, and other utility bills for services provided by or on behalf of the City which may be owed to the City from time to time. The Program is intended to provide short-term relief to such residents and citizens and is not intended to be used as a long-term benefit.

(c) Program.

The City Manager or their designee shall implement and administer the Program in accordance with the provisions of this Section. The City Manager shall cause the director of finance to accept voluntary donations to be used to facilitate the Program. In addition to other means of accepting donations, the City Manager is authorized to instruct the director of finance to establish a process by which residents or citizens may make donations as part of payment of their City utility bills, including a program allowing residents or citizens to "round up" their bill, with the additional funds going to the Program. The City Manager shall cause the director of finance to maintain all donations and other proceeds received for the Program in a separate bank account. The City Manager is authorized to contract with a social service agency to accept and process applications and determine residents and citizens who meet the Program's eligibility guidelines. All eligibility guidelines for the Program will be established by the City Manager and attached as an exhibit to any contract with the administering agency. Any contract with an administering agency must include a cancellation provision whereby either party may terminate the contract upon a thirty-day advance written notice to the other.

(d) **Term.**

The Program shall continue until terminated by the City Council.

(e) **Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage after emergency reading/public hearing.


VOTE RESULTS OF EMERGENCY READING:

Mayor Elaine Brown	YES
Vice Mayor Fred Jones	YES
Councilor Kerry Chin	YES
Councilor Josh Messinger	YES
Councilor Scott Wiley	YES

Passed on Emergency Reading in accordance with Neptune Beach Code Section 2-46 and Florida Statutes Section 166.041(b), this 1st day of June, 2020.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as to form and contents


Zachary Roth, City Attorney

