

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 21 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PROVIDING FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN SEWER ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS FOR DISABLED PROPERTY OWNERS

WHEREAS, section 7-253a of the Connecticut General Statutes (“General Statutes” or “G.S.”) allows any municipality, by ordinance, to permit any property owner who is eligible for property tax relief for (1) elderly taxpayers under the provisions of section 12-129b, section 12-170aa, or a plan for tax relief for elderly taxpayers provided by such municipality in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 12-129n or (2) any property owner under age sixty-five who is eligible for tax relief under the provisions of a plan provided by such municipality in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-129n of the General Statutes to apply to the municipality’s water pollution control authority for approval of a plan of payment of such property owner’s sewer assessment in a manner other than as provided under section 7-253 of the General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, section 7-253a of the General Statutes also provides that such ordinance may allow optional methods of payment of any sewer assessment by any eligible property owner, subject to approval and annual review by the municipality’s water pollution control authority; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich Sewer Authority (“Sewer Authority”) provides wastewater collection services to the City of Norwich’s (“City”) residents;

WHEREAS, the City has established a program whereby the Sewer Authority can allow certain qualifying elderly property owners to pay their sewer assessments as outlined under section 7-253a of the General Statutes and the statutes referenced therein, which program is codified in Section 21-3.6 of The Code of Ordinances, City of Norwich, Connecticut (the “Code”); and

WHEREAS, the City does not, however, have a program codified in the Code whereby the Sewer Authority can allow certain qualifying disabled property owners to pay their sewer assessments as outlined under section 7-253a of the General Statutes and the statutes referenced therein; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in Section 7-23 of the Code, the City does provide for property tax relief for both elderly and disabled taxpayers, in accordance with section 12-129n of the General Statutes;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the public benefit of having a payment program as contemplated by section 7-253a of the General Statutes available for disabled property owners under the age of sixty-five who meet the qualifications for total or permanent disability as set forth in section 12-129n of the General Statutes and Section 7-23 of the Code;

WHEREAS, the City wishes to allow the Sewer Authority to make a sewer assessment payment program contemplated by section 7-253a of the General Statutes available to property owners who are under the age of sixty-five and who meet the qualifications for total or permanent disability as set forth in section 12-129n of the General Statutes and Section 7-23 of the Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the following modifications be made to Article I of Chapter 21 of the Code:

[NEW] Sec. 21-3.7. Payment of disabled property owner’s sewer assessment.

Pursuant to G.S. § 7-253a, and under the provisions of G.S. §§ 12-129n and/or 12-170aa, the municipal water pollution control authority, the Sewer Authority, is granted the authority to approve a plan of the sewer assessment payments for property owners who are under age sixty-five and who meet all of the qualifications of being disabled, as outlined in G.S. §§ 12-129n and/or 12-170aa. Such authority may include an option to pay only the annual interest charge, as provided in G.S. § 7-253, on any deferred payments or outstanding balance of principal, provided in any such optional method of payment, the outstanding balance of principal deferred under such optional method of payment shall become due upon any transfer of title to the property subject to such assessment or upon death of such property owner. Any optional method of payment provided under this section shall be subject to approval and annual review by the Sewer Authority.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Joseph A. DeLucia
Alderwoman Stacy Gould