From: Mike Nugent
To: Cyndi Meyer; Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Re: Water bills
Date: Friday, May 13, 2022 11:42:53 AM

Hi Cyndi,

Thanks for reaching out to council. From your email I can't tell if there is some confusion on the proposed policy. The proposal clarifies that the owner of a house or building is ultimately responsible for the utility bill on the property they own if their tenant has an outstanding balance above $200. I work in the real estate industry and it is common practice in leasing that if a tenant of a building or unit does not pay their utility bills, that responsibility falls back on the owner of that building. Then the owner addresses that issue with the tenant according to the terms of their lease. Northwestern Energy, a privately owned utility, has a similar policy though I do not know the specifics.

If this policy is not put in place, the burden of covering unpaid utility fees falls to all the other users of the system in the form of potentially higher rates. Ultimately the responsibility for a property falls to the owner and the landlord tenant relationship is a private contract not monitored by the city.

Mike

Mike Nugent
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****Please note this is a government provided email account and any correspondence to and from are potentially available for public review****

From: Cyndi Meyer <trottinghorsetherapy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 8:07 AM
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site <Council@ci.missoula.mt.us>
Subject: Water bills

To whom,
I was just reading about the latest way in which you are hoping to take responsibility away from tenants in order to jab the property owners. The proposed levy on property owners to pay unpaid water bills. Where do you think the added money will come from? You guessed it, increased rental prices. As a property owner who already pays ridiculously high property taxes, water, sewer, storm tax, etc plus whatever other fee is attached to cover "your" mismanagement, this new way to shift responsibility to those of us who continue to work hard to pay our bills because that is what you do..pay your bills is a head scratcher. I understand

everyone has different circumstances but I am so frustrated. Just because I choose to work hard, pay my bills and not expect others to pay my way, should I have to pay for those who choose not to do the same? How about those of you council members who want to pay for everything and everyone crack open your own pocketbooks. I welcome responses from all councils members to help me understand.

Cyndi Meyer, Trotting Horse Therapeutic Riding
406-370-8477