

Number

Version:
ORIGINAL

Reference

Sponsor
The Chair

Title
Resolution authorizing a contract for services between the State of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee to assist residential homeowner customers with Municipal Services Bill arrearages through the Homeowner Assistance Fund.

Analysis
This resolution authorizes and directs the Milwaukee Water Works ("MWW") to enter into a vendor agreement with the State of Wisconsin-Department of Administration ("State") to provide financial assistance to qualified homeowners to offset arrearage amounts related to the City's Municipal Services Bill ("MSB") through funds that have been provided to the State of Wisconsin through the federal American Rescue Plan (Section 3206). The State, through its partners, will pre-qualify MWW retail residential homeowners and provide a payment directly to Milwaukee Water Works for any MSB arrearages incurred after January 21, 2020.

Body
Whereas, The Milwaukee Water Works is a self-financing business enterprise of the City of Milwaukee that provides safe and abundant drinking water in the City of Milwaukee and 15 neighboring communities; and

Whereas, The City's Municipal Services Bill is administered by the MWW and is utilized to collect charges for various City Services including water, local Sewerage and Stormwater Management fees, solid waste fee, snow and ice removal, and street lighting charges; and

Whereas, The MWW was approached by the State of Wisconsin to contract with the State to apply payments provided to the State through the Homeowner Assistance Fund which is funded through the American Rescue Plan to pre-qualified residential customer homeowners for arrearages contained on the City's Municipal Services Bill; and

Whereas, Under the agreement, the State, through its partners, will pre-qualify eligible customers and provide a payment directly to the MWW for arrearages incurred after January 21, 2020, for all services reflected on the City's MSB; and

Whereas, Under the agreement, the MWW will assist the State and its subcontractors in identifying all current arrearage amounts for customers that have been pre-qualified by the State to receive such payments; and

Whereas, Under the agreement, the MWW will apply all payments made by the State to the appropriate customer accounts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Milwaukee Water Works is authorized and directed to enter into the attached Contract for Services with the State of Wisconsin-Department of Administration; and, be it

Further Resolved, That this contract will terminate September 30, 2026, or when all funds have been expended by the State for this purpose; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the proper City officials are authorized to negotiate and execute any additional documents and instruments necessary to carry out the Homeowner Assistance Fund program in partnership with the State.