

CITY OF MARYSVILLE AGENDA BILL
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR ACTION

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: February 4th, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: Amendment to MMC 3.63.030 (3)(b) Low-Income Disabled Citizen	
PREPARED BY: Jan Berg Asst. Finance Director /John Nield, Financial Operations Manager	DIRECTOR APPROVAL:
DEPARTMENT: Finance	
ATTACHMENTS: Draft Ordinance Updating the definition of Low-Income Disabled Citizen for reduced utility rates.	
BUDGET CODE:	AMOUNT:

SUMMARY:

It has been brought to the Finance Department’s attention that the income threshold used to qualify for the city’s reduced utility rates for low-income disabled citizens is different than most of the surrounding jurisdictions making it harder for citizens to qualify for the reduced rates.

The proposed code amendment would change the income threshold to use the very low income level for the Seattle/Tacoma/Bellevue area as established and amended by survey from time to time by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The definition of income level will bring the city’s low-income disabled citizen income consistent with the majority of neighboring jurisdictions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Staff recommends that City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance amending MMC 3.63.030 (3)(b)Low-Income Disabled Citizen.

CITY OF MARYSVILLE
Marysville, Washington

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE,
WASHINGTON, AMENDING SECTION 3.63.030 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE
REGARDING LOW-INCOME DISABLED CITIZENS' ELIGIBILITY FOR
UTILITY RATE RELIEF.**

WHEREAS, the City is authorized by RCW 74.38.070 to offer reduced utility rates to low-income citizens and has done so since 2004; and

WHEREAS, the income criteria identified in the municipal code to determine eligibility for utility rate relief for low-income disabled residents is much lower than in neighboring jurisdictions resulting in fewer disabled Marysville citizens being eligible for utility rate relief; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development sets income limits to determine eligibility for assisted housing programs and many nearby jurisdictions use the "very low income" level to determine eligibility for utility rate relief; and

WHEREAS, public health and welfare would be enhanced by the City using the "very low income" level set by HUD to determine eligibility for utility rate relief.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE,
WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 3.63.030 of the municipal code is amended as set forth in Exhibit A.

SECTION 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. Upon approval by the city attorney, the city clerk or the code reviser are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including scrivener's errors or clerical mistakes; references to other local, state, or federal laws, rules, or regulations; or numbering or referencing of ordinances or their sections and subsections.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective five days after the date of its publication by summary.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

CITY OF MARYSVILLE

By _____
JON NEHRING, MAYOR

Attest:

By _____
TINA BROCK, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:

By _____
JON WALKER, CITY ATTORNEY

Date of publication: _____

Effective Date (5 days after publication): _____

EXHIBIT A

3.63.030 Eligibility for senior citizen low-income and/or disabled low-income rate.

The occupant of a single-family dwelling unit, duplex, multifamily complex or mobile home park shall be eligible for the rate reduction under the following conditions:

(1) The dwelling unit must be occupied by the person claiming eligibility as his or her principal place of residence.

(2) The person claiming the rate must be the head of the household for the dwelling unit in question.

(3) The person claiming eligibility for the senior citizen rate must qualify in one of the following categories:

(a) Low-Income Senior Citizen. "Low-income senior citizen" means a person who is 62 years of age or older and whose total income including that of his or her spouse or co-tenant does not exceed the amount specified in RCW [84.36.381\(5\)\(a\)](#), as now or hereafter amended.

(b) Low-Income Disabled Citizen. "Low-income disabled citizen" means a person whose income, including that of his or her spouse or co-tenant, does not exceed the amount specified in [RCW 70.164.020\(6\)](#) for the "very low income" level set most recently by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Seattle/Bellevue metropolitan area and:

(i) A person qualifying for special parking privileges under RCW [46.19.010\(1\)](#);

(ii) A blind person as defined in RCW [74.18.020](#); or

(iii) A disabled, handicapped or incapacitated person as defined under any other existing state or federal program.