

**CITY OF SULTAN
SULTAN, WASHINGTON
EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-2020**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SULTAN,
WASHINGTON REVERSING AND PLACING A MORATORIUM ON ANY
UTILITY RATE INCREASES UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 2021.**

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Governor of the State of Washington proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the state of Washington due to the outbreak of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, I declared a state of emergency existed due to the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, The CDC currently indicates there are 72,221,634 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide with 212,342 of those cases in Washington and 19,696 in Snohomish County and WDOH has confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to the general public and creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and

WHEREAS, over the last several months of the pandemic, residents and businesses have struggled with their utility payments, many of them asking for assistance through a variety of public programs; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has placed additional restrictions on businesses and gatherings, severely impacting the economy of Sultan and the State; and

WHEREAS, The City of Sultan each year increases the utility rates to meet with the inflationary increases in the services the City provides; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that these increases during a pandemic are a challenge for many residents and business; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor, as the Chief Executive of the City, under the authority of RCW 38.52.070(2) noted below, am authorized to issue an executive order, reversing the rate increase which took effect on December 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, RCW 38.52.070(2) provides that a municipality "is authorized to exercise the powers vested under this section in the light of the exigencies of an extreme emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding and publication of notices, provisions pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes, and the appropriation and expenditures of public funds."

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SULTAN THE FOLLOWING IS ORDERED:

Section 1 I, Russell Wiita, Mayor of the City of Sultan, hereby postpone any rate increase to the residential and commercial utility customers, including the scheduled rate increase for water, sewer and storm.

That the utility rates increase which took effect on December 1, 2020 is reversed and a temporary stay of any rate increase will remain in effect until February 28, 2021 or until the City Council directs staff to modify this order, whichever occurs first.

Specifically, this order will place a hold on rate increases as outlined in the following ordinances that the City Council passed.

- Ordinance 1276-17 - Water Rate Schedule
- Ordinance 1293-18 - Sewer Rate Schedule
- Ordinance 1278-17 - Stormwater Rate Schedule

Section 2 This Executive Order shall be presented to City Council at the earliest convenience of the Council for consideration, discussion, and ratification.

DATED this 18th day of December 2020.

CITY OF SULTAN



Mayor Russell Wiita

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



Tami Pevey, City Clerk