

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 24-40, 30-208, 30-251, AND 30-352; AND ADDING SECTION 1-4 TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LEOTI TO PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF DEBTS OWED TO THE CITY**

WHEREAS, The Governing Body finds that it is fiscally responsible to actively pursue collection of the debts due and owed to the city.

WHEREAS, a Kansas municipality has authority to collect such debts. See K.S.A. 12-4119, 75-6201 et seq., 19-27a02, 19-3550.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the governing body of the City of Leoti, Kansas as follows:

1. That Sections 24-40, 30-208, 30-251, 30-352 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Leoti, Kansas, shall be amended to each read as follows:

Any utility account with a balance outstanding for ten days after disconnections will be terminated by the utility billing clerk. After three notices have been sent by regular mail to the last known address of the account holder, the account will be moved to bad debt status; simultaneously, a \$25.00 administrative fee will be added to the account; and the account will be referred for collection pursuant to Section 1-14 herein.

2. That the Code of Ordinances, City of Leoti, Kansas, is hereby amended by adding a section to be numbered Section 1-14, which said section reads as follows:

Any debt or moneys owed to the City of Leoti, other than taxes will be either referred to a Debt Collection Agency for assistance with collection of the debt and/or set for debt set off pursuant to K.S.A. 75-6201 et. seq. Citizen/debtor shall pay any and all charges related to the reasonable costs of collection of any fine/fee/costs of services, as well as any costs/assessments for clean-up of the property for a municipal violation that is the issue herein. This specifically applies to, but is not limited to, charges for water, trash, electricity, property code violation fines, parking tickets, municipal court fines, fees, court costs, interest accrued thereon, and any other debt due and owing to the municipality. The costs of collection include, but are not limited to, court costs, surcharges, attorney fees, and collection agency fee, except that such costs of collection may not include both attorney fees and collection agency fees.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its publication in the official City newspaper.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_, by the City Council, City of Leoti, Kansas.

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Cheryl Green, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Ashley Woods, City Clerk