

# Consider an Ordinance to Amend and Reordain Stafford County Code Section 25

June 19, 2018



## Background

- The Stafford County Department of Public Works-Utilities Division seeks to update Chapter 25 of the County Code to bring it into compliance with recent changes to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2119 and 15.2-2119.4.
- The recent changes to the State Code allow accounts to remain in the delinquent status for 60 days prior to service interruption.
- In addition, the County must notify customers at least 10 business days prior to disconnecting service.



# Proposed Amendments

## ❖ Sec. 25-1- Definitions

- *Customer:* Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or group who or which (i) receives utility service from the county under either an express or implied contract requiring payment to the county for such service; (ii) is the owner occupant of the property serviced or where a single meter serves multiple units; or (iii) lessee or tenant with (a) written or electronic authorization to obtain water and sewer services in the name of such lessee or tenant from the property owner, or (b) a copy of the lease or rental agreement from the property owner, lessee or tenant in lieu of the written authorization.



## Proposed Amendments

- ❖ Sec. 25-104. - When due and payable; delinquencies generally.
- Bills for water and sewer service charges shall be due ~~and payable when rendered~~ upon a date so established by the Department. ~~The grace period for the payment of such bills shall be twenty five (25) days.~~ The bill shall become delinquent ~~in twenty five days~~ if the water and sewer service charges remain unpaid when due, at which time a ten (10) percent penalty on the unpaid balance shall be imposed. If such customer does not pay the full amount of charges, penalties, and interest for water and sewer service provided or cease disposal of sewage or industrial waste within 30 days thereafter, the county shall notify such customer of the delinquency



## Proposed Amendments

- ❖ Sec. 25-105. - Discontinuance of service for failure to pay.
- Water and sewer service shall be discontinued sixty (60) ~~fifteen (15)~~ days after a bill rendered under this article becomes delinquent and all charges, penalties and interest remain unpaid, unless the health officers certify that shutting off the water will endanger the health of the occupants of the premises or the health of others. The County shall provide the customer with written notice of such cessation at least ten (10) business days prior to ceasing the supply of water and sewer services. If the customer is a tenant or lessee, the county shall provide the customer with written notice of the cessation of water and sewer services with a copy to the property owner. When such services are so discontinued, they shall not be reinstated until the reconnection charge has been paid, together with all delinquent bills, including penalties and interest. Such reconnection charge shall not be refundable.



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## Questions?

