BILL 2015-12

****** Full Reading ******

Agenda Item

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Barbara J. O'Connor, CMC, City Clerk

DATE: February 26, 2015

RE: **Annual Write-Off – Uncollectible Utility Accounts**

Issues

Council has the authority to write off bad debts. Staff has implemented an annual write off for uncollectible utility accounts. To that end, Ordinance 5189 was passed February 2005 allowing Staff to write off past due accounts.

Staff reviewed accounts and prepared the attached list for 2015 (totaling $45,704.45) for your consideration. This amount has increased from last year by $7,844.23. The 2015 list contains accounts that are five (5) years old or older, some of which have been sent to a collection agency for collection. Their efforts have not proven successful on these accounts. Staff is now working on collection efforts from in house.

Staff feels the increase in accounts to be written off and the larger amount is due in part to rate increases during these years; a number of commercial accounts, which normally have higher bills; and, a change in our collection efforts. 118 accounts were written off last year and this year there are 143 accounts on the list to remove from delinquent accounts. Staff is continuing their work to reduce the past due accounts.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of this bill on full reading following your review.

Bill 2015-12

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CAMERON ACCOUNTING STAFF TO WRITE-OFF UNCOLLECTIBLE UTILITY ACCOUNTS FOR THE CITY OF CAMERON, CLINTON AND DEKALB COUNTIES, MISSOURI

WHEREAS, the City experiences uncollectible debts for various goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the City auditors allow for uncollectible accounts on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Council is authorized to write-off uncollectible debt as needed; and

WHEREAS, the Council authorized with Ordinance 5189 on February 1, 2005 the first write off; and,

WHEREAS, Staff continues to review annually and has determined since the last annual write-off, $45,704.45 has accumulated as uncollectible utility accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Cameron, Clinton and DeKalb Counties, Missouri as follows:

Section 1. The accounting staff is hereby authorized to write-off $45,704.45 in uncollectible utility accounts, a list of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized to sign this Ordinance on behalf of the City of Cameron.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to attest to the Mayor's signature.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval.

Read two times, passed and approved this 2nd day of March 2015.

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Mayor Dennis M. Clark

ATTEST:

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City Clerk/Finance Clerk