

Ordinance No.: 2014-005A
Introduction Date: 02/25/2014
Hearing Date: 03/11/2014
Passage Date: 03/11/2014

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
ORDINANCE NO. 2014-005A**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 55A ENTITLED ELECTRIC
RATES OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE**

WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Board of Public Works has recommended that the Mayor and Council adopt various amendments to Chapter 55A of the Borough Code pertaining to Electric Rates to require security deposits for certain residential and non-residential users and to amend sections of the Chapter to provide for the payment of interest when payments are not made in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge wish to amend said Ordinance to include the provisions recommended by the Board of Public Works,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Park Ridge, in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION ONE. Section 55A-1 is hereby amended to delete paragraphs 55A-1(E) and 55A-1(F) in their entirety. Paragraphs (E) and (F) of Section 55A-2 are hereby repealed.

SECTION TWO. Section 55A-2 is hereby amended to delete paragraphs 55A-2(F) and 55A-2(G) in their entirety. Paragraphs (F) and (G) of Section 55A-2 are hereby repealed.

SECTION THREE. Section 55A-3 is hereby amended to delete paragraphs 55A-3(F) and 55A-3(G) in their entirety. Paragraphs (F) and (G) of Section 55A-3 are hereby repealed.

SECTION FOUR. Section 55A-4 is hereby amended to delete paragraphs 55A-4(G) and 55A-4(H) in their entirety. Paragraphs (G) and (H) of Section 55A-4 are hereby repealed.

SECTION FIVE. Section 55A-5 is hereby amended to delete paragraphs 55A-5(G) and 55A-5(H) in their entirety. Paragraphs (G) and (H) of Section 55A-5 are hereby repealed.

SECTION SIX. Section 55A-8 is hereby amended to delete paragraph 55A-(F) in its entirety. Paragraph (F) of Section 55A-8 is hereby repealed.

SECTION SEVEN. Section 55A-10 is hereby amended to read it its entirety as follows:

"Section 55A-10. PAYMENT TERMS. Bills are due and payable when rendered. If unpaid at the end of twenty (20) days, a ten (10) day grace period will be allowed. Following the 30th day, the grace period will no longer be applicable and interest shall accrue from the first day of delinquency, retroactive to day 21, at a rate of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 and 18% per annum for any amount over \$1,500.00. Additionally, the Borough of Park Ridge reserves the right to terminate service following appropriate written notice."

SECTION EIGHT. Chapter 55A is hereby amended to include the following Section 55A-11 entitled Discontinuation of Services:

"Section 55A-11. DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICES. All Residential and Commercial users, both owner and tenant:

a) who are delinquent 60 days or more from the billing due date are subject to discontinuation of services.

b) whose service is disconnected will be charged a shut off fee of \$50.00. There will be no reconnect fee during the Park Ridge Electric Department's normal business hours of 7:30am to 3:00pm Monday through Friday.

c) will be charged a \$100.00 reconnection fee during non-business hours, prior to 7:30am and after 3:00pm Monday through Friday."

SECTION NINE. Chapter 55A is hereby amended to include the following Section 55A-12 entitled Security Deposits by Residential Users:

"Section 55A-12. SECURITY DEPOSITS BY RESIDENTIAL USERS. Owners of record of property within the Borough of Park Ridge shall not be required to pay a deposit. All tenants within the Borough of Park Ridge shall be required to pay a deposit based upon estimated bills which would accrue for two months' services or a minimum of the following:

a)	Residential	\$200.00
b)	Electric Heat	\$200.00
c)	Senior citizen, lifeline and disability service	\$150.00
d)	Lehman Gardens	\$150.00"

SECTION TEN. Chapter 55A is hereby amended to include the following Section 55A-13 entitled Security Deposits for Commercial Users:

"Section 55A-13. SECURITY DEPOSITS FOR COMMERCIAL USERS. All new commercial users within the Borough of Park Ridge shall be required to pay a deposit as follows:

a)	General	\$ 1,000.00
b)	Large Power	\$10,000.00"

SECTION ELEVEN. Chapter 55A is hereby amended to include the following section 55A-14 entitled Security Deposits Held On Account:

"Section 55A-14. SECURITY DEPOSITS HELD ON ACCOUNT. Security deposits must be paid in full within three (3) business days when an account is opened. Failure to pay said security deposit shall result in discontinuation of service. Such deposit will be held until the premises are vacated and all final bills are paid in full. Interest on the deposit is applied to the account when payable. The Board of Public Works shall have the right to increase the amount of a deposit if in its judgment such action is necessary."

SECTION TWELVE. Chapter 55A is hereby amended to include the following section 55A-15 entitled Delinquent Accounts.

"DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS. All Residential and Commercial users, both owner and tenant, whose account becomes thirty (30) days or more delinquent shall be subject to the following:

a) Owner occupied residential and existing commercial users shall be required to pay a deposit as outlined in Sections § 55A-12 and § 55A-13, respectively.

b) In addition, all delinquent users shall be subject to an increase in deposit based upon estimated bills which would accrue for two months' service calculated using an average of the two highest billings in the 12 months; or if service has not been in effect for 12 months, then the average would be calculated based upon time occupied.

SECTION THIRTEEN: **Invalidity.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the Borough of Park Ridge which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION FOURTEEN: **Severability.** The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. Should any section, paragraph, subparagraph,

provision, sentence, or part hereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional, said finding shall not affect any other section, paragraph, subparagraph, provision, sentence, or part thereof and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION FIFTEEN: **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately following final passage, adoption and publication as provided by law.

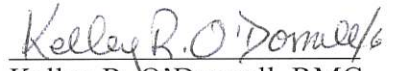
Adopted 03 / 11 / 14 on roll call vote as follows:

	Introduced	Seconded	AYES	NAYES	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Hopper			✓			
Bosi		✓	✓			
Galdi			✓			
Oppelt	✓		✓			
Bertini			✓			
Cangialosi			✓			

APPROVED:


TERENCE P. MAGUIRE, MAYOR

Attest:


Kelley R. O'Donnell, RMC
Borough Clerk / Administrator