

ORDINANCE NO. 16194

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 12 - 2026

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FEBRUARY 6, 2026

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AN ORDINANCE

Amending the City Code Part II, General Legislation, Chapter 633, Water, Article V, Water Service and Charges to add Section 633-53, Water and Sewer Rebate – by creating a sliding schedule of water and sewer rebates.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That Article 633-53, Water and Sewer Rebate, shall read as follows:

**§ 490-53 Water and Sewer Rebate.**

- A. All bona fide residents of the City who are sixty-five (65) years of age or over or permanently disabled persons will be entitled to a rebate from the minimum domestic water and sewer fixed charge paid for their homesteads, in accordance with the schedule hereinafter set forth. Only one (1) rebate will be paid for each homestead; and in the case of co-ownership, a single rebate will be paid to the co-owners jointly so long as any one of them is sixty-five (65) years of age or over or permanently disabled persons, provided that all co-owners are otherwise eligible for the rebate.
- B. Definitions for purposes of determining rebate eligibility are as follows:
  - (1) "Income" means all income from whatever source derived, including but not limited to salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, income from self-employment, alimony, support money, cash, public assistance and relief, the gross amount of any pensions or annuities including railroad retirement benefits, all benefits received under the Federal Social Security Act (except Medicare benefits but including supplemental Social Security payments), all benefits received under State unemployment insurance laws and veteran's disability payments, all interest received from the Federal or any State government, or any instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, realized capital gains, rentals, workmen's compensation and the gross amount of loss of time insurance benefits, life insurance benefits and proceeds (except the first Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars of the total death benefit payments), and gifts of cash or property (other than transfers by gift between members of a household) in excess of a total value of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars, but shall not include surplus or other relief in kind supplied by a governmental agency or those rebates offered by state and local government for services supplied.
  - (2) "Household income" means the aggregate of all income received by the homestead owner (or owners, in the case of co-ownership) and his or her spouse if a resident of the same household during a calendar year in which minimum domestic water and sewer fixed charge are due and payable.

(3) "Homestead" means a dwelling, and so much of the land surrounding it as is reasonably necessary for use of the dwelling as a home, which is owned and occupied by a claimant. A "homestead" also includes premises occupied by reason of ownership or lease in a cooperative housing corporation, mobile homes which are assessed as a realty for local property tax purposes and the land, if owned or rented by the claimant, upon which the mobile home is situated. An "owner" includes a person in possession under a contract of sale, deed or trust, life estate, joint tenancy or tenancy in common.

(4) "Water and sewer fixed charge" means the fixed charge per month based on the size of meter based on the contractual requirements included in the City's lease agreement with Lehigh County Authority.

(5) "Permanently disabled persons" means persons who are unable to engage in any substantial, gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to continue indefinitely.

- C. The amount of rebate from the minimum domestic water and sewer fixed charge paid during calendar year 2025 and thereafter will be determined in accordance with the following schedule:

| <b>Percentage of Water and Sewer Fixed Charge</b> |                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Household Income</b>                           | <b>Water and Sewer Fixed Charge to be Rebated</b> |
| \$0 to \$15,000                                   | 75%                                               |
| \$15,001 to \$20,000                              | 50%                                               |
| \$20,001 to \$25,000                              | 25%                                               |
| \$25,001 to \$34,450                              | 10%                                               |
| \$34,451 or over                                  | No rebate                                         |

- D. A request for a rebate shall be filed with the Department of Finance on such form as prescribed by that Department for such purpose. The request for rebate shall be filed by June 30 of the current year for a partial rebate of the Water and Sewer Fixed Charge paid for the previous calendar year. The rebate will apply to the water and sewer fixed charge for the fiscal year, January 1 to December 31, immediately preceding the claim filing period. The Department of Finance may require such additional evidence as it deems necessary or appropriate in processing the claim and reserves the right to deny any claim that does not meet the requirements for rebate. The Department of Finance will review each claim and will verify and confirm the amount of the rebate to the extent that the claim is valid and proper.
- E. Any information gained by any official, agent, or employee of the City, as a result of any claims, investigations or hearings required or authorized by this Article, will be confidential and will not be disclosed to any person except for official use in connection with the administration or enforcement of this Article or as otherwise provided by law.

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

|                        | Yea | Nay |
|------------------------|-----|-----|
| Candida Affa           | X   |     |
| Jeremy Binder          | X   |     |
| Ce Ce Gerlach          | X   |     |
| Cynthia Y. Mota        | X   |     |
| Cristian Pungo         | X   |     |
| Natalie Santos         | X   |     |
| Santo Napoli,<br>Pres. | X   |     |
| TOTAL                  | 7   | 0   |

**I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by City Council on March 4, 2026 and signed by the Mayor on March 4, 2026.**

  
 CITY CLERK