



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

ORDINANCE #25-06



AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 25-02 (ELECTRIC ORDINANCE) AND ORDINANCES NO. 89-4 AND 91-10 (WATER ORDINANCES) TO ESTABLISH A TWO-STEP APPEAL PROCESS FOR UTILITY BILL DISPUTES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Tarentum seeks to provide a fair and transparent process for residents who wish to dispute their utility bills, and;

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds it necessary to amend the existing Electric Ordinance (25-02) and Water Ordinances (89-4 and 91-10) to incorporate a formal appeals process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Tarentum, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

SECTION 1: AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCES 25-02, 89-4, AND 91-10

A new section is hereby added to the Borough's Electric Ordinance (25-02) and Water Ordinances (89-4 and 91-10), establishing a formal appeals process for utility bill disputes:

UTILITY BILL APPEALS PROCESS

1. Appeal Submission:

- a. Any customer who wishes to have their utility bill dismissed, modified, or forgiven must submit an appeal in writing using the Borough's prescribed appeals form.
- b. Appeals submitted without the prescribed form will not be considered.

2. First-Level Appeal:

- a. The initial appeal must be submitted to the Borough's Utility Billing Administrator.
- b. The Utility Billing Administrator shall review the appeal and provide a written response within sixty (60) days of receiving the completed appeals form.

3. Second-Level Appeal:

- a. If the first-level appeal is denied, the customer may submit a second appeal to Borough Council within thirty (30) days of receiving the written response from the Utility Billing Administrator as set forth in 2.(b). The cost of the second appeal is \$150.00 and shall be paid with the second appeal.
- b. The second appeal must include the original appeal form and the written response from the Utility Billing Administrator.
- c. If a hearing is requested pursuant to subsection 3.(b), the Borough Council shall conduct the hearing at a regular or special public meeting which occurs not less than sixty (60) days after receipt of the written appeal. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Agency Law, 2 Pa.C.S. §551 et seq.
- d. A written response shall be issued within forty-five (45) days of the hearing in accordance with the provisions of Local Agency Law.

4. Judicial Review:

- a. If the Borough Council denies the second-level appeal, the customer may seek judicial review



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through the appropriate judicial body in accordance with the provisions of the Local Agency Law, 2 Pa.C.S. §751 et seq.

SECTION 2: REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: SEVERABILITY

If any section, clause, sentence, or provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Ordinance is duly Ordained and Enacted by the Council of the Borough of Tarentum at a public meeting held this 11th day of March 2025.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

Dwight D. Boddorf, Borough Manager

Scott Dadowski, President of Council

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by me this 11th day of March 2025.

Eric Dee, Esq., Solicitor

Bob Lang, Mayor



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