

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SEGUIN TEXAS RATIFYING AND  
EXTENDING AS AMENDED THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY  
RESULTING FROM THE FEBRUARY 2021 SEVERE WINTER STORM EVENT; AND  
DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, on February 12, 2021, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a Proclamation declaring an Emergency due to the imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 14, 2021, the President of the United States issued a Declaration of Emergency for all 254 Texas Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, extremely cold temperatures and record snow and ice accumulation on the streets in the City of Seguin have created dangerous conditions making travel difficult, closing most businesses; stressing water and electric utilities and creating hazardous conditions for the City's citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the extremely cold temperatures exist statewide and have stressed the ability of ERCOT to provide sufficient power to the State's electricity grid causing requests urging citizens to conserve power as well as endure rolling brownouts as well as damage from leaking water pipes as a result of the severe freeze; and

**WHEREAS**, even though the weather has normalized damage from the storm still exists and issues related to the provision of utilities will continue in the foreseeable future; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic on March 16, 2020, the Governor, at the request of the Texas Attorney General, suspended several provisions of the Texas Open Meetings laws to allow governmental entities to meet virtually in order to conduct business; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor has periodically extended the open meeting exemptions, along with other COVID-19 emergency directives, with the last extension occurring on February 4, 2021 continuing through March 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of Seguin, Texas:

**SECTION 1.** That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Declaration are found to be true and correct.

**SECTION 2.** That a state of disaster exists and will continue to exist for the foreseeable future in the City of Seguin.

**SECTION 3.** That this declaration directs the City Manager to activate the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans; authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance, as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering the plans and activates the preparedness and response aspects of the plans.

**SECTION 4.** City of Seguin Water Utility residential customers who experienced an unusually high water bill due to the storm or leaking pipes may request that their bill be reduced to the amount that customer incurred in the month prior to the February storm event.

**SECTION 5.** City of Seguin non-residential water utility customer may who experienced unusually high bills due to water leaks from the storm event may request that their bills be adjusted.

**SECTION 6.** All City of Seguin water and electric utility customers shall be entitled to apply for a 3-month payment plan, with no assessed interest, to assist with high utility costs that were incurred as a result of the February storm event.

**SECTION 7.** The fees normally assessed for turning City of Seguin electric and water utilities off and on so the repairs can be made shall be waived.

**SECTION 8.** All charges normally assessed for the late payment of City of Seguin utility accounts shall be waived.

**SECTION 9.** Utilities will not be cut-off for non-payment during the term set out in Section 10.

**SECTION 10.** The waiver of fees and not cut-off set forth in Sections 7, 8 and 9 shall terminate at the later of the date this Declaration expires or the date that the Public Utility Commission rescinds its similar order.

**SECTION 11.** Any building permit fee needed for repair of storm damage shall be waived.

**SECTION 12.** Price gouging on the part of any business within the Seguin corporate limits shall not be tolerated and any business engaging in such practiced shall be sanctioned in accordance with local ordinance.

**SECTION 13.** This Resolution ratifies the February 15, 2021, Mayoral Declaration of Disaster and is hereby effective as of 12:00 midnight February 21, 2021, and shall remain in effect for 30 days from that date.

**Passed and approved** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2021.

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DONNA DODGEN, MAYOR

Attest:

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Naomi Manski, City Secretary