AN ORDINANCE of the City of Kent, Washington, transferring the Municipal Utilities Department to the Department of Finance, providing procedures for applications for utilities service, establishing procedures for billing for utilities service, designating the City Treasurer as the person responsible for accepting payment for utilities service, providing procedures for handling delinquent utilities accounts, and repealing Sections 1 through 14 of Ordinance 1332 of the City of Kent relating to the Municipal Utilities Department and water regulations.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. By this ordinance the duties of the City of Kent Municipal Utilities Department are transferred to the Department of Finance.

Section 2. The Department of Finance shall be under the direct supervision of the Director of Finance, who shall report to the City Administrator.

Section 3. Application. All applications for utility service on established accounts of water, sewer, garbage and storm drainage shall be made to the Finance Department. The written application shall be made by the owner or authorized agent of the property where service is requested. For a new service for water or sewer, the application shall be made to the City Engineer, which, after approval, will then be taken to the Finance Department to be processed in the normal manner. Whenever an application for utility service is made by an agent, the agent shall
submit written authority from the owner authorizing said agent to receive that utility service requested. Included in this written authority will be an acknowledgement that the owner is legally liable for all service.

Section 4. Utility Accounts. All accounts for water, sewer and storm drainage shall be kept in the name of the owner, provided, however, that whenever the owner by written stipulation directs that the account shall be billed to a renter, tenant or lessee, and within such stipulation acknowledges his legal liability for the payment of said account, said account may be billed to the renter, tenant or lessee. No change of ownership or occupancy shall affect the application of this Section.

Section 5. All monies received for the payment of utility bills shall be by the City Treasurer or her authorized agent.

Section 6. Utility Billings. All utility bills are due and payable in the office of the City Treasurer within ten (10) days after the billing date appearing on the bill. Bills not paid within thirty (30) days of the billing date, shall be subject to shut-off of service without notice to customer. Service shall not be restored in the case of water or sewer until payment of delinquent bill or bills is received together with a turn-on charge of three (3) dollars; provided, however, that when the 30th day falls on a legal holiday, Saturday or Sunday, the first business day thereafter shall be considered the 30th day. Whenever a water or sewer bill is in the name of a renter, tenant or lessee, and is subject to turn-off for delinquency, the Finance Department shall send a duplicate bill to the owner of record as shown on the application, as well as the user. In the event a turn-off is made with a subsequent turn-on, the owner of record as shown on the application will also be notified.

Section 7. Lien for delinquent Charges. Whenever a sewer, garbage or storm drain customer does not have a Kent water account, and collection cannot be enforced through discontinuance of water service, the City of Kent shall have a lien for delinquent and unpaid charges for said utility service, and penalties;
which lien shall be effective for a total of not to exceed six (6) months delinquent charges without the necessity of any writing or recording. In order to make a lien effective for more than six (6) months charges, the Director of Finance shall cause to be filed for record in the office of the county auditor of King County a notice setting forth the amount of the delinquency, the name of the owner or reputed owner who owes the bill and the description of the lot, tract or parcel of land to which such lien shall attach. This lien may be foreclosed in an action in the Superior Court.

Section 8. Repeal. Sections 1 through 14 of Ordinance 1332 (1966) are hereby repealed.

Section 9. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days from and after its passage, approval and publication, as provided by law.

ISABEL HOGAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARIE JENSEN, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DONALD E. MIRK, City Attorney

PASSED the 19th day of June, 1972.
APPROVED the 21st day of June, 1972.
PUBLISHED the 23rd day of June, 1972.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 1775, passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

MARIE JENSEN, City Clerk (SEAL)