

(First Published in the Columbus News Report \_\_\_\_\_, 2016)

**ORDINANCE NO. 1398**

**AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS, AMENDING  
CHAPTER I OF THE CODE FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS,  
REGARDING CONTRACTED COLLECTION AGENCY SERVICES TO  
COLLECT DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS AND ASSESS COLLECTION COSTS  
AND FEES.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter I, Administration, Article 9, of the Code for the City of Columbus, Kansas shall be amended to establish the authority to contract with a collection agency in order to collect outstanding debts from delinquent accounts accrued from unpaid utility bills and City service fees. The collection process shall also allow for assessment of collection costs and fees to the debtor account holder.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,  
KANSAS:**

**SECTION 1. New Section 1-906:** The City is authorized to contract debt collection services to collect selected delinquent accounts. The debtor account holder owing unpaid utility bills or City service fees shall pay any and all charges related to the reasonable costs of collection of any fine/fee/costs of services, as well as any costs/assessments for clean-up of the property for a municipal violation that is the issue herein. This specifically applies to, but is not limited to, charges for water, sewer, trash, property code violations, fines, fees, interest accrued thereon, and any other debt due and owing to the municipality. The costs of collection include, but are not limited to, court costs, surcharges, attorney fees, and collection agency fee, except that such costs of collection may not include both attorney fees and collection agency fees.

**SECTION 2:** All ordinances and resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed in so far as they conflict herewith.

**SECTION 3:** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage and shall be published in the official City newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS, THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF December, 2016.

CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS

William Schaiff  
William Schaiff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherri Chancellor  
Cherri Chancellor, City Clerk

