



CO00000355

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Snohomish County Washington**

**ORDINANCE NO. 02- 004**

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW SECTION TO CHAPTER 4.10 SCC  
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO ABSORB FEES ASSOCIATED WITH  
ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

WHEREAS, the state legislature through RCW 36.29.190, authorized county treasurers to accept credit cards, charge cards, debit cards, smart cards, stored value cards, federal wire and automatic clearinghouse system transactions, or other electronic communication, for payment of any kind including but not limited to, taxes, fines, interest, penalties, special assessments, fees, rates, charges or moneys due counties; and

WHEREAS, state law also authorizes counties to absorb fees charged by electronic payment processing companies for electronic transactions of specifically identified categories of nontax payments if the county's legislative body finds that it is in the best interests of the county to do so; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of such payments is in the best interests of the county because it allows money to be deposited into the bank faster, which generates more investment interest than could be earned with manual receipting methods, saves staff time, and offers citizens a convenient way of paying for county services and products and may increase the use and purchase of certain revenue-generating services and products;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. The Snohomish County Council finds that acceptance of electronic payments is in the best interests of the county because it allows money to be deposited into the bank faster, which generates more investment interest than could be earned with manual receipting methods, saves staff time, and offers citizens a convenient way of paying for county services and products and may increase the use and purchase of certain revenue-generating services and products.

Section 2. A new section is added to Chapter 4.10 of the Snohomish County Code to read:

**4.10.020 Credit Card Fees.**

(1) The county treasurer is authorized to accept credit cards, charge cards, debit cards, smart cards, stored value cards, federal wires, automated clearinghouse transactions, or other electronic communication for any payment of any kind including, but not limited to, taxes, fines, interest, penalties, special assessments, fees, rates, charges, or moneys due the county.

(2) The costs of processing credit card, charge cards, debit cards, smart cards, stored value cards, federal wires, automated clearinghouse transactions or other electronic communication shall be the responsibility of the payer in an amount determined by the treasurer consistent with RCW 36.29.190, except with respect to transaction processing costs specified in subsection (3), which transaction processing costs may be paid from the General Fund.

(3) The county council specifically finds that it is in the best interests of the county to not charge transaction processing costs made for following categories of non tax payments due the county:

- (a) fines
- (b) interest not associated with taxes
- (c) penalties not associated with taxes
- (d) special assessments
- (e) fees
- (f) rates
- (g) charges

Passed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2002

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

Attest:

Barbara Sidorst  
Clerk of Council, *ASST.*

*Greg D. Nelson*  
Chair

- APPROVED
- VETOED
- EMERGENCY

*Will Paul*  
County Executive  
Date: 3/11/02

Attest:

*Kamela S. Sandoz*

Approved as to form only:

*Jason J. Cummings* 1/18/02  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
**Jason J. Cummings**

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