

CHAPTER 95

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

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95.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of the chapters of this Code of Ordinances pertaining to Sanitary Sewers is to establish rules and regulations governing the treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage within the City in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

95.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in these chapters, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the following terms are defined:

1. “B.O.D.” (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) means the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five days at 20 degrees C, expressed in milligrams per liter or parts per million.
2. “Building drain” means that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a building drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five feet (one and one-half meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.
3. “Building sewer” means that part of the horizontal piping from the building wall to its connection with the main sewer or the primary treatment portion of an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system conveying the drainage of one building site.
4. “Combined sewer” means a sewer receiving both surface run-off and sewage.
5. “Customer” means any person responsible for the production of domestic, commercial, or industrial waste that is directly or indirectly discharged into the public sewer system.
6. “Garbage” means solid wastes from the domestic and commercial preparation, cooking and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage, and sale of produce.
7. “Industrial wastes” means the liquid wastes from industrial manufacturing processes, trade, or business as distinct from sanitary sewage.
8. “Inspector” means the person duly authorized by the Council to inspect and approve the installation of building sewers and their connections to the public sewer system; and to inspect such sewage as may be discharged therefrom.
9. “Natural outlet” means any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or groundwater.
10. “On-site wastewater treatment and disposal system” means all equipment and devices necessary for proper conduction, collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from four or fewer dwelling units or other facilities serving the equivalent of 15 persons (1,500 gpd) or less.

11. “pH” means the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.
12. “Public sewer” means a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights, and is controlled by public authority.
13. “Sanitary sewage” means sewage discharging from the sanitary conveniences of dwellings (including apartment houses and hotels), office buildings, factories, or institutions, and free from storm, surface water, and industrial waste.
14. “Sanitary sewer” means a sewer that carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and ground waters are not intentionally admitted.
15. “Sewage” means a combination of the water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, and storm waters as may be present.
16. “Sewage treatment plant” means any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.
17. “Sewage works” or “sewage system” means all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating, and disposing of sewage.
18. “Sewer” means a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.
19. “Sewer service charges” means any and all charges, rates or fees levied against and payable by customers, as consideration for the servicing of said customers by said sewer system.
20. “Slug” means any discharge of water, sewage, or industrial waste that in concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow exceeds for any period of duration longer than 15 minutes more than five times the average 24-hour concentration or flows during normal operation.
21. “Storm drain” or “storm sewer” means a sewer that carries storm and surface waters and drainage but excludes sewage and industrial wastes, other than unpolluted cooling water.
22. “Superintendent” means the Superintendent of sewage works and/or of water pollution control of the City or any authorized deputy, agent, or representative.
23. “Suspended solids” means solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids, and that are removable by laboratory filtering.
24. “Watercourse” means a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.

95.03 SUPERINTENDENT. The Superintendent shall exercise the following powers and duties:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 372.13[4])

1. Operation and Maintenance. Operate and maintain the City sewage system.
2. Inspection and Tests. Conduct necessary inspections and tests to assure compliance with the provisions of these Sanitary Sewer chapters.
3. Records. Maintain a complete and accurate record of all sewers, sewage connections and manholes constructed showing the location and grades thereof.

95.04 PROHIBITED ACTS. No person shall do, or allow, any of the following:

1. Damage Sewer System. Maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment that is a part of the sewer system.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 716.1)

2. Surface Run-Off or Groundwater. Connect a roof downspout, sump pump, exterior foundation drain, areaway drain, or other source of surface run-off or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain that is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

3. Manholes. Open or enter any manhole of the sewer system, except by authority of the Superintendent.

4. Objectionable Wastes. Place or deposit in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within the City, or in any area under the jurisdiction of the City, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.

5. Septic Tanks. Construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage except as provided in these chapters.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

6. Untreated Discharge. Discharge to any natural outlet within the City, or in any area under its jurisdiction, any sanitary sewage, industrial wastes, or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of these chapters.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

95.05 SEWER CONNECTION REQUIRED. The owners of any houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the City and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is now located, or may in the future be located, a public sanitary or combined sewer, are hereby required to install, at such owner's expense, suitable toilet facilities therein and a building sewer connecting such facilities directly with the proper public sewer, and to maintain the same all in accordance with the provisions of these Sanitary Sewer chapters, such compliance to be completed within 30 days after date of official notice from the City to do so provided that said public sewer is located within 200 feet (61 meters) of the property line of such owner and is of such design as to receive and convey by gravity such sewage as may be conveyed to it. Billing for sanitary sewer service will begin the date of official notice to connect to the public sewer.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

(IAC, 567-69.1[3])

95.06 SERVICE OUTSIDE THE CITY. The owners of property outside the corporate limits of the City so situated that it may be served by the City sewer system may apply to the Council for permission to connect to the public sewer upon the terms and conditions stipulated by resolution of the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.4[2 & 3])

95.07 RIGHT OF ENTRY. The Superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purposes of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling and testing in accordance with the provisions of these Sanitary Sewer chapters. The Superintendent or representatives shall

have no authority to inquire into any processes including metallurgical, chemical, oil, refining, ceramic, paper, or other industries beyond that point having a direct bearing on the kind and source of discharge to the sewers or waterways or facilities for waste treatment.

95.08 USE OF EASEMENTS. The Superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the City holds a duly negotiated easement for the purposes of, but not limited to, inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, repair, and maintenance of any portion of the sewage works lying within said easement. All entry and subsequent work, if any, on said easement, shall be done in full accordance with the terms of the duly negotiated easement pertaining to the private property involved.

95.09 SPECIAL PENALTIES. The following special penalty provisions shall apply to violations of these Sanitary Sewer chapters:

1. Notice of Violation. Any person found to be violating any provision of these chapters except subsections 1, 3, and 4 of Section 95.04, shall be served by the City with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations.
2. Continuing Violations. Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in subsection 1 hereof shall be in violation of this Code of Ordinances. Each day in which any such violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offense.
3. Liability Imposed. Any person violating any of the provisions of these chapters shall become liable to the City for any expense, loss, or damage occasioned the City by reason of such violation.

CHAPTER 96

BUILDING SEWERS AND CONNECTIONS

96.01 Permit
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96.05 Connection Requirements

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96.01 PERMIT. No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connection with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the City. The application for the permit shall set forth the location and description of the property to be connected with the sewer system and the purpose for which the sewer is to be used, and shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent. The permit shall require the owner to complete construction and connection of the building sewer to the public sewer within 30 days after the issuance of the permit, except that when a property owner makes sufficient showing that due to conditions beyond the owner's control or peculiar hardship, such time period is inequitable or unfair, an extension of time within which to comply with the provisions herein may be granted. Any sewer connection permit may be revoked at any time for a violation of these chapters.

96.02 PERMIT FEE. The person who makes the application shall pay a fee in the amount of \$50.00 to the Clerk to cover the cost of issuing the permit and supervising, regulating, and inspecting the work.

96.03 PLUMBER REQUIRED. All installations of building sewers and connections to the public sewer shall be made by a State-licensed plumber.

96.04 EXCAVATIONS. All trench work, excavation, and backfilling required for the installation of a building sewer shall be performed in accordance with the provisions of the *State Plumbing Code* and the provisions of Chapter 135 of this Code of Ordinances.

96.05 CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS. Any connection with a public sanitary sewer must be made under the direct supervision of the Superintendent and in accordance with the following:

1. **Old Building Sewers.** Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test conducted by the owner and observed by the Superintendent, to meet all requirements of this chapter.
2. **Separate Building Sewers.** A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every occupied building; except where one building stands at the rear of another on an interior lot and no private sewer is available or can be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining alley, court, yard, or driveway. In such cases the building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer.
3. **Installation.** The installation and connection of the building sewer to the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the *State Plumbing Code* and applicable rules and regulations of the City. All such connections shall be made gastight and

watertight. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the Superintendent before installation.

4. Water Lines. When possible, building sewers should be laid at least 10 feet horizontally from a water service. The horizontal separation may be less, provided the water service line is located at one side and at least 12 inches above the top of the building sewer.

5. Size. Building sewers shall be sized for the peak expected sewage flow from the building with a minimum building sewer size of four inches.

6. Alignment and Grade. All building sewers shall be laid to a straight line to meet the following:

- A. Recommended grade at one-fourth inch per foot.
- B. Minimum grade of one-eighth inch per foot.
- C. Minimum velocity of two feet per second with the sewer half full.
- D. Any deviation in alignment or grade shall be made only with the written approval of the Superintendent and shall be made only with approved fittings.

7. Depth. Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. The depth of cover above the sewer shall be sufficient to afford protection from frost.

8. Sewage Lifts. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such drain shall be lifted by approved artificial means and discharged to the building sewer.

9. Pipe Specifications. Building sewer pipe shall be free from flaws, splits, or breaks. Materials shall be as specified in the *State Plumbing Code* except that the building sewer pipe, from the property line to the public sewer, shall comply with the current edition of one of the following:

- A. Clay sewer pipe – A.S.T.M. C-700 (extra strength).
- B. Extra heavy cast iron soil pipe – A.S.T.M. A-74.
- C. Ductile iron water pipe – A.W.W.A. C-151.
- D. P.V.C. – SDR26 – A.S.T.M. D-3034.

10. Bearing Walls. No building sewer shall be laid parallel to or within three feet of any bearing wall that might thereby be weakened.

11. Jointing. Fittings, type of joint and jointing material shall be compatible with the type of pipe used, subject to the approval of the Superintendent. Solvent-welded joints are not permitted.

12. Unstable Soil. No sewer connection shall be laid so that it is exposed when crossing any watercourse. Where an old watercourse must of necessity be crossed or where there is any danger of undermining or settlement, cast iron soil pipe or vitrified clay sewer pipe thoroughly encased in concrete shall be required for such crossings. Such encasement shall extend at least six inches on all sides of the pipe. The cast iron pipe or encased clay pipe shall rest on firm, solid material at either end.

13. Preparation of Basement or Crawl Space. No connection for any residence, business or other structure with any sanitary sewer shall be made unless the basement

floor is poured, or in the case of a building with a slab or crawl space, unless the ground floor is installed with the area adjacent to the foundation of such building cleared of debris and backfilled. The backfill shall be well compacted and graded so that the drainage is away from the foundation. Prior to the time the basement floor is poured, or the first floor is installed in buildings without basements, the sewer shall be plugged and the plug shall be sealed by the Superintendent. Any accumulation of water in any excavation or basement during construction and prior to connection to the sanitary sewer shall be removed by means other than draining into the sanitary sewer.

96.06 INTERCEPTORS REQUIRED. Grease, oil, sludge and sand interceptors shall be provided by gas and service stations, convenience stores, car washes, garages, and other facilities when, in the opinion of the Superintendent, they are necessary for the proper handling of such wastes that contain grease in excessive amounts or any flammable waste, sand or other harmful ingredients. Such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. When required, such interceptors shall be installed in accordance with the following:

1. Design and Location. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity as specified in the *State Plumbing Code*, to be approved by the Superintendent, and shall be located so as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection.
2. Construction Standards. The interceptors shall be constructed of impervious material capable of withstanding abrupt and extreme changes in temperature. They shall be of substantial construction, watertight and equipped with easily removable covers that shall be gastight and watertight.
3. Maintenance. All such interceptors shall be maintained by the owner at the owner's expense and shall be kept in continuously efficient operations at all times.

96.07 SEWER TAP. Connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall be made at the "Y" branch, if such branch is available at a suitable location. If no properly located "Y" branch is available, a saddle "Y" shall be installed at the location specified by the Superintendent. The public sewer shall be tapped with a tapping machine and a saddle appropriate to the type of public sewer shall be glued or attached with a gasket and stainless steel clamps to the sewer. At no time shall a building sewer be constructed so as to enter a manhole unless special written permission is received from the Superintendent and in accordance with the Superintendent's direction if such connection is approved.

96.08 INSPECTION REQUIRED. All connections with the sanitary sewer system before being covered shall be inspected and approved, in writing, by the Superintendent. As soon as all pipe work from the public sewer to inside the building has been completed, and before any backfilling is done, the Superintendent shall be notified and the Superintendent shall inspect and test the work as to workmanship and material; no sewer pipe laid underground shall be covered or trenches filled until after the sewer has been so inspected and approved. If the Superintendent refuses to approve the work, the plumber or owner must proceed immediately to correct the work.

96.09 PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY. All costs and expenses incident to the installation, connection, and maintenance of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the building sewer.

96.10 ABATEMENT OF VIOLATIONS. Construction or maintenance of building sewer lines, whether located upon the private property of any owner or in the public right-of-way, which construction or maintenance is in violation of any of the requirements of this chapter, shall be corrected, at the owner's expense, within 30 days after date of official notice from the Council of such violation. If not made within such time, the Council shall, in addition to the other penalties herein provided, have the right to finish and correct the work and assess the cost thereof to the property owner. Such assessment shall be collected with and in the same manner as general property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3])

CHAPTER 97

USE OF PUBLIC SEWERS

97.01 Storm Water
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97.04 Restricted Discharges

97.05 Restricted Discharges; Powers of Superintendent
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97.01 STORM WATER. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof run-off, sub-surface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. Storm water and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers that are specifically designated as combined sewers or storm sewers or to a natural outlet approved by the Superintendent. Industrial cooling water or unpolluted process waters may be discharged on approval of the Superintendent, to a storm sewer, combined sewer, or natural outlet.

97.02 SURFACE WATERS EXCEPTION. Special permits for discharging surface waters to a public sanitary sewer may be issued by the Council upon recommendation of the Superintendent where such discharge is deemed necessary or advisable for purposes of flushing, but any permit so issued shall be subject to revocation at any time when deemed to the best interests of the sewer system.

97.03 PROHIBITED DISCHARGES. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

1. Flammable or Explosive Material. Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas.
2. Toxic or Poisonous Materials. Any waters or wastes containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant, including but not limited to cyanides in excess of two milligrams per liter as CN in the wastes as discharged to the public sewer.
3. Corrosive Wastes. Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, and personnel of the sewage works.
4. Solid or Viscous Substances. Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage works such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, etc., either whole or ground by garbage grinders.
5. Excessive B.O.D., Solids or Flow.
 - A. Any waters or wastes: (i) having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand greater than 300 parts per million by weight; or (ii) containing more than 350 parts per million by weight of suspended solids; or (iii) having an

average daily flow greater than two percent of the average sewage flow of the City, shall be subject to the review of the Superintendent.

B. Where necessary in the opinion of the Superintendent, the owner shall provide, at the owner's expense, such preliminary treatment as may be necessary to: (i) reduce the biochemical oxygen demand to 300 parts per million by weight; or (ii) reduce the suspended solids to 350 parts per million by weight; or (iii) control the quantities and rates of discharge of such waters or wastes. Plans, specifications, and any other pertinent information relating to proposed preliminary treatment facilities shall be submitted for the approval of the Superintendent and no construction of such facilities shall be commenced until said approvals are obtained in writing.

97.04 RESTRICTED DISCHARGES. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged the following described substances, materials, waters, or wastes if it appears likely in the opinion of the Superintendent that such wastes can harm either the sewers, sewage treatment process, or equipment, have an adverse effect on the receiving stream or can otherwise endanger life, limb, public property, or constitute a nuisance. In forming an opinion as to the acceptability of these wastes, the Superintendent will give consideration to such factors as the quantities of subject wastes in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, nature of the sewage treatment process, capacity of the sewage treatment plant, degree of treatability of wastes in the sewage treatment plant, and other pertinent factors. The substances restricted are:

1. High Temperature. Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than 150 degrees F (65 degrees C).
2. Fat, Oil, Grease. Any water or waste containing fats, wax, grease or oils, whether emulsified or not, in excess of 100 milligrams per liter or 600 milligrams per liter of dispersed or other soluble matter.
3. Viscous Substances. Water or wastes containing substances that may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between 32 degrees F and 150 degrees F (0 degrees to 65 degrees C).
4. Garbage. Any garbage that has not been properly shredded, that is, to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half inch in any dimension.
5. Acids. Any waters or wastes containing strong acid iron pickling wastes, or concentrated plating solution whether neutralized or not.
6. Toxic or Objectionable Wastes. Any waters or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc, and similar objectionable or toxic substances; or wastes exerting an excessive chlorine requirement, to such degree that any such material received in the composite sewage at the sewage treatment works exceeds the limits established by the Superintendent for such materials.
7. Odor or Taste. Any waters or wastes containing phenols or other taste or odor producing substances, in such concentrations exceeding limits that may be established by the Superintendent as necessary, after treatment of the composite sewage, to meet the requirements of State, federal, or other public agencies of jurisdiction for such discharge to the receiving waters.

8. Radioactive Wastes. Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the Superintendent in compliance with applicable State or federal regulations.
9. Excess Alkalinity. Any waters or wastes having a pH in excess of 9.5.
10. Unusual Wastes. Materials that exert or cause:
 - A. Unusual concentrations of inert suspended solids (such as, but not limited to, Fullers earth, lime slurries, and lime residues) or of dissolved solids (such as, but not limited to, sodium chloride and sodium sulfate).
 - B. Excessive discoloration (such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetable tanning solutions).
 - C. Unusual B.O.D., chemical oxygen demand or chlorine requirements in such quantities as to constitute a significant load on the sewage treatment works.
 - D. Unusual volume of flow or concentration of wastes constituting "slugs" as defined herein.
11. Noxious or Malodorous Gases. Any noxious or malodorous gas or other substance that, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, is capable of creating a public nuisance or hazard to life or of preventing entry into sewers for their maintenance and repair.
12. Damaging Substances. Any waters, wastes, materials, or substances that react with water or wastes in the sewer system to release noxious gases, develop color of undesirable intensity, form suspended solids in objectionable concentration or create any other condition deleterious to structures and treatment processes.
13. Untreatable Wastes. Waters or wastes containing substances that are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the sewage treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the sewage treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.

97.05 RESTRICTED DISCHARGES; POWERS OF SUPERINTENDENT. If any waters or wastes are discharged or are proposed to be discharged to the public sewers, which waters contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in Section 97.04 and which in the judgment of the Superintendent may have a deleterious effect upon the sewage works, processes, equipment, or receiving waters, or which otherwise create a hazard to life or constitute a public nuisance, the Superintendent may:

1. Rejection. Reject the wastes by requiring disconnection from the public sewage system;
2. Pretreatment. Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition for discharge to the public sewers;
3. Controls Imposed. Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge; and/or
4. Special Charges. Require payment to cover the added cost of handling and treating the wastes not covered by existing taxes or sewer charges under the provisions of Chapter 99.

97.06 SPECIAL FACILITIES. If the Superintendent permits the pretreatment or equalization of waste flows, the design and installation of the plants and equipment shall be subject to the review and approval of the Superintendent and subject to the requirements of all applicable codes, ordinances, and laws. Where preliminary treatment or flow-equalizing facilities are provided for any waters or wastes, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner at the owner's expense.

97.07 CONTROL MANHOLES. When required by the Superintendent, the owner of any property serviced by a building sewer carrying industrial wastes shall install a suitable control manhole together with such necessary meters and other appurtenances in the building sewer to facilitate observation, sampling, and measurement of the wastes. Such manhole, when required, shall be accessibly and safely located, and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the Superintendent. The manhole shall be installed by the owner at the owner's expense, and shall be maintained by the owner so as to be safe and accessible at all times.

97.08 TESTING OF WASTES. All measurements, tests, and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made in this chapter shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, published by the American Public Health Association, and shall be determined at the control manhole provided, or upon suitable samples taken at said control manhole. In the event that no special manhole has been required, the control manhole shall be considered to be the nearest downstream manhole in the public sewer to the point at which the building sewer is connected. Sampling shall be carried out by customarily accepted methods to reflect the effect of constituents upon the sewage works and to determine the existence of hazards to life, limb, and property. (The particular analyses involved will determine whether a 24-hour composite of all outfalls of a premises is appropriate or whether a grab sample or samples should be taken. Normally, but not always, B.O.D. and suspended solids analyses are obtained from 24-hour composites of all outfalls whereas pH's are determined from periodic grab samples).

CHAPTER 98

ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

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98.05 Discharge Restrictions

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98.07 Systems Abandoned
98.08 Disposal of Septage
98.09 Minimum Lot Area

98.01 WHEN PROHIBITED. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, it is unlawful to construct or maintain any on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

98.02 WHEN REQUIRED. When a public sanitary sewer is not available under the provisions of Section 95.05, every building wherein persons reside, congregate or are employed shall be provided with an approved on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system complying with the provisions of this chapter.

(IAC, 567-69.1[3])

98.03 COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS. The type, capacity, location, and layout of a private on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system shall comply with the specifications and requirements set forth by the Iowa Administrative Code 567, Chapter 69, and with such additional requirements as are prescribed by the regulations of the County Board of Health.

(IAC, 567-69.1[3 & 4])

98.04 PERMIT REQUIRED. No person shall install or alter an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system without first obtaining a permit from the County Board of Health.

98.05 DISCHARGE RESTRICTIONS. It is unlawful to discharge any wastewater from an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system (except under an NPDES permit) to any ditch, stream, pond, lake, natural or artificial waterway, drain tile or to the surface of the ground.

(IAC, 567-69.1[3])

98.06 MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM. The owner of an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system shall operate and maintain the system in a sanitary manner at all times and at no expense to the City.

98.07 SYSTEMS ABANDONED. At such time as a public sewer becomes available to a property served by an on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system, as provided in Section 95.05, a direct connection shall be made to the public sewer in compliance with these Sanitary Sewer chapters and the on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system shall be abandoned and filled with suitable material.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[3f])

98.08 DISPOSAL OF SEPTAGE. No person shall dispose of septage from an on-site treatment system at any location except an approved disposal site.

98.09 MINIMUM LOT AREA. No permit shall be issued for any on-site wastewater treatment and disposal system employing sub-surface soil absorption facilities where the area of the lot is less than 1,500 square feet.

CHAPTER 99

SEWER USER CHARGE

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99.01 PURPOSE. It is determined and declared to be necessary and conducive to the protection of the public health, safety, welfare and convenience of the City to collect charges from all users who contribute wastewater to the City's treatment works. The proceeds of such charges so derived will be used for the purpose of operating, maintaining and retiring the debt for such public wastewater treatment works.

99.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Operation and maintenance" means all expenditures during the useful life of the wastewater treatment works for materials, labor, utilities and other items which are necessary for the management and maintenance of the sewer works to achieve the capacity and performance for which such works were designed and constructed.
2. "Replacement" means expenditures for obtaining and installing equipment, accessories or appurtenances which are necessary during the useful life of the treatment works to maintain the capacity and performance for which such works were designed and constructed. The term "operation and maintenance" includes replacement.
3. "Residential Contributor" means any contributor to the City's treatment works whose lot, parcel of real estate, or building is used for domestic dwelling purposes only.
4. "Treatment works" means any devices and systems used for the storage, treatment, recycling and reclamation of municipal sewage, domestic sewage or liquid industrial wastes. These include intercepting sewers, outfall sewers, sewage collection systems, individual systems, pumping, power and other equipment and their appurtenances; extensions, improvement, remodeling, additions and alterations thereof; elements essential to provide a reliable recycled supply such as standby treatment units and clear well facilities; and any works, including site acquisition of the land that will be an integral part of the treatment process or is used for ultimate disposal of residues resulting from such treatment (including land for composting sludge, temporary storage of such compost, and land used for the storage of treated wastewater in land treatment systems before land application); or any other method or system for preventing, abating, reducing, storing, treating, separating or disposing of municipal waste or industrial waste, including waste in combined storm water and sanitary sewer systems.
5. "Useful life" means the estimated period during which the wastewater treatment works will be operated.
6. "User charge" means that portion of the total wastewater service charge which is levied in a proportional and adequate manner for the cost of operation, maintenance and replacement of the wastewater treatment works.

7. “Water meter” means a water volume measuring and recording device, furnished and/or installed by the City or furnished and/or installed by a user and approved by the City.

99.03 USE OF FUNDS. The user charge system shall generate adequate annual revenues to pay costs of annual operation and maintenance including replacement and costs associated with debt retirement of bonded capital associated with financing the treatment works which the City may by ordinance designate to be paid by the user charge system. That portion of the total user charge which is designated for operation and maintenance including replacement of the treatment works shall be established by this chapter.

99.04 ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED. That portion of the total user charge collected which is designated for operation and maintenance including replacement purposes as established in Section 99.06 shall be deposited in a separate non-lapsing fund known as the *Operation, Maintenance and Replacement Fund* and will be kept in two primary accounts as follows:

1. Operation and Maintenance Account. An account designated for the specific purpose of defraying operation and maintenance costs (excluding replacement) of the treatment works.
2. Replacement Account. An account designated for the specific purpose of ensuring replacement needs over the useful life of the treatment works. Deposits in the Replacement Account shall be made quarterly from the operation, maintenance and replacement revenue in the amount of \$5,000.00 annually.

99.05 YEAR-END BALANCES. Fiscal year-end balances in the Operation and Maintenance Account and the Replacement Account shall be carried over to the same accounts in the subsequent fiscal year, and shall be used for no other purposes than those designated for these accounts. Moneys which have been transferred from other sources to meet temporary shortages in the Operation, Maintenance and Replacement Fund shall be returned to their respective accounts upon appropriate adjustment of the user charge rates for operation, maintenance and replacement. The user charge rate shall be adjusted such that the transferred moneys will be returned to their respective accounts within the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the moneys were borrowed.

99.06 CHARGES BASED ON USAGE. Each user shall pay for the services provided by the City based on said user’s use of the treatment works as determined by water meters acceptable to the City. For industrial and commercial customers, user charges may be based on water used during the current month. If a commercial or industrial customer has a consumptive use of water, or in some other manner uses water which is not returned to the wastewater collection system, the user charge for that customer may be based on a wastewater meter or separate water meter installed and maintained at the customer’s expense, and in a manner acceptable to the City.

99.07 MINIMUM CHARGE. The minimum charge per month per user shall be \$34.21, which includes the first 2,000 gallons of water used. In addition, each user shall pay a user charge rate for operation and maintenance including replacement of \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons of water used, after the first 2,000 gallons, as determined in the preceding section. (Effective July 1, 2026)[†]

[†] **EDITOR’S NOTE:** The rates added with Ord. No. 198 are effective July 1, 2026. Prior to July 1, 2026, the rates are: Minimum Rate of \$34.00 and \$4.40 per every 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons.

(Section 99.07 – Ord. 198 – Apr. 26 Supp.)

99.08 RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCREASED COSTS. Any user which discharges any toxic pollutants which cause an increase in the cost of managing the effluent or the sludge from the City's treatment works or any user which discharges any substance which singly or by interaction with other substances causes identifiable increases in the cost of operation, maintenance or replacement of the treatment works shall pay for such increased costs. The charge to each such user shall be as determined by the responsible plant operating personnel and approved by the Council.

99.09 APPLICATION. The user charge rates established in this chapter apply to all users of the City's treatment works, regardless of their location. The user charge system shall take precedence over any terms or conditions of agreements or contracts which are inconsistent with the requirements of this chapter.

99.10 PAYMENT OF BILLS. All user charges are due and payable under the same terms and conditions provided for payment of a combined service account as contained in Section 92.04 of this Code of Ordinances. Sewer service may be discontinued or disconnected in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 92.05 if the combined service account becomes delinquent, and the provisions contained in Section 92.08 relating to lien notices shall also apply in the event of a delinquent account.

99.11 LIEN FOR NONPAYMENT. Except as provided for in Section 92.07 of this Code of Ordinances, the owner of the premises served and any lessee or tenant thereof shall be jointly and severally liable for sewer user charges to the premises. Sewer user charges remaining unpaid and delinquent shall constitute a lien upon the property or premises served and shall be certified by the Clerk to the County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as property taxes.

99.12 REVIEW OF USER CHARGE SYSTEM. The City shall review the user charge system every two (2) years and revise user charge rates as necessary to ensure that the system generates adequate revenues to pay the costs of operation and maintenance including replacement and that the system continues to provide for the proportional distribution of operation and maintenance including replacement costs among users and user classes.

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CHAPTER 100

STORM WATER UTILITY

100.01 Purpose
100.02 Definitions

100.03 Storm Water Drainage System District Established

100.04 Rates
100.05 Payment of Bills
100.06 Lien for Nonpayment

100.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a Storm Water Utility and provide a means of funding the construction, operation and maintenance of storm water management facilities including, but not limited to, detention and retention basins, storm water sewers, inlets, ditches and drains, and cleaning of streets. The Council finds that the construction, operation and maintenance of the City's storm and surface water drainage system should be funded through charging users of property which may connect or discharge directly, or indirectly, into the storm and surface water drainage system.

100.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the following terms are defined:

1. "Connection" means the physical act or process of tapping a public storm water sewer or drainage line, or joining onto an existing side sewer, for the purpose of connecting private impervious surface or other storm and surface water sources or systems to the public storm and surface water system. It also includes creation or maintenance of impervious surface that causes or is likely to cause an increase in the quantity or decrease in quality or both from the natural state of storm water runoff, and which drains, directly or indirectly, to the storm and surface water system.
2. "Customer" means, in addition to any person receiving storm water service from the City, the owner of the property served, and as between such parties the duties, responsibilities, liabilities and obligations hereinafter imposed shall be joint and several.
3. "Storm and surface water drainage system" means any combination of publicly owned storm and surface water quantity and quality facilities, pumping, or lift facilities, storm and secondary drain pipes and culverts, open channels, creeks and ditches, force mains, laterals, manholes, catch basins and inlets, including the grates and covers thereof, detention and retention facilities, laboratory facilities and equipment, and any other publicly owned facilities for the collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of storm and surface water system within the City, to which sanitary sewage flows are not intentionally admitted.
4. "User" means any person who uses property that maintains connection to, discharges to, or otherwise receives services from the City for storm water management. The occupant of occupied property is deemed the user. If the property is not occupied, the person who has the right to occupy it shall be deemed the user.

100.03 STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM DISTRICT ESTABLISHED. Pursuant to the authority of Section 384.84[5] of the *Code of Iowa*, the entire City is hereby declared a Storm Water Drainage System District for the purpose of establishing, imposing, adjusting and providing for the collection of rates for the operation and maintenance of storm water

management facilities. The entire City, as increased from time to time by annexation, shall constitute a single Storm Water Drainage System District.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84[5])

100.04 RATES. Each user shall pay for storm and surface water drainage system service provided by the City. The rates for the operation and maintenance of the storm water management facilities shall be collected by imposing a monthly rate on each residential, commercial and industrial customer within the City. The Council may adopt rules, charges, rates, and fees for the use of the City's storm and surface water system, and for services provided by the City relating to that system. Such rules may include delinquency and interest charges and penalties. Such charges and fees shall be just and equitable based upon the actual costs of operation, maintenance, acquisition, extension and replacement of the City's system, the costs of bond repayment, regulation, administration, and services of the City. The rates for the foregoing functions shall be collected by imposing a monthly rate of two dollars (\$2.00) per meter.

100.05 PAYMENT OF BILLS. All Storm Water Drainage System District charges shall be due and payable under the same terms and conditions provided for payment of a combined service account as contained in Section 92.04 of this Code of Ordinances. All City services may be discontinued in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 92.05 if the combined service account becomes delinquent, and the provisions contained in Section 92.08 lien notices shall also apply in the event of a delinquent account.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84[2b] and [2d])

100.06 LIEN FOR NONPAYMENT. Except as provided for in Section 92.07 of this Code of Ordinances, the owner of the premises served and any lessee or tenant thereof shall be jointly and severally liable for charges for the operation and maintenance of the storm water management facilities. Storm Water Drainage System District charges remaining unpaid and delinquent shall constitute a lien upon the premises served and shall be certified by the Clerk to the County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as property taxes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 384.84[3a])

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