

## CHAPTER 51: SEWERS

### Section

#### **CONSTRUCTION AND CONNECTIONS; USAGE**

- 51.01 Sewer connection required
- 51.02 Installation of sewer facilities; costs
- 51.03 Water connection and payment required
- 51.04 Maintenance; responsibility
- 51.05 Drainage; connection to sanitary sewer prohibited
- 51.06 Separate connection required
- 51.07 Industrial or commercial users; grease trap

#### **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

- 51.20 Supervision and enforcement
- 51.21 Establishment of charges
- 51.22 Delinquent payment; collection
- 51.23 Sewer hookup charge
- 51.24 Sewer rates
  
- 51.99 Penalty

#### **CONSTRUCTION AND CONNECTIONS; USAGE**

### **§ 51.01 SEWER CONNECTION REQUIRED.**

All persons, firms, or corporations owning real estate within the corporate limits of the city, which has upon it at the time of this chapter goes into effect, or hereafter, one or more buildings or structures requiring sanitary facilities in connection with the use thereof located within 100 feet of any existing sewer line, shall cause the building or structure to be usage connected with the city sanitary sewer system under the terms and conditions set out in this chapter.

*(Ord. 265, passed 7-7-1987) Penalty, see § 51.99*

## Sewers

### § 51.02 INSTALLATION OF SEWER FACILITIES; COSTS.

(A) The city may install all sewer lines necessary to service all property within the city requiring sanitary sewer facilities and shall assess the costs of the installation of these lines to the property benefitted in the manner provided by law.

(B) The Superintendent shall supervise the connection of the sanitary facilities of the property to be serviced to the property line at the sewer mains. The property owner shall pay all costs of materials, labor, construction of his or her line from the building or structure to be serviced to the locations where the city determines the hookup or connection shall be made. The line constructed by the owner of the property shall meet the requirements of this chapter, the city Building Code, and state law and regulations. The actual hookup or connection at the owner's property line shall be made by the city. When a property owner constructs his or her part of the sewer line, he or she shall, after it is placed in the excavation thereof, leave it uncovered and unused until it has been inspected and approved by the person designated as the city building inspector and by the state Department of Environmental Quality.

(C) After hookup is made, the property owner shall be responsible for the entire line, from the point of connection at the city's main, to the point of use. Any costs or work performed on lines from the city main to the owner's point of use shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

*(Ord. 265, passed 7-7-1987)* Penalty, see § 51.99

### § 51.03 WATER CONNECTIONS AND PAYMENT REQUIRED.

No connection to the facilities of the city sanitary sewer system shall be made until the property has been connected to the municipal water system and all charges in connection with the installation of the water service have been paid.

*(Ord. 265, passed 7-7-1987)* Penalty, see § 51.99

### § 51.04 MAINTENANCE; RESPONSIBILITY.

All sewer pipes and facilities from the point of connection to the city sewer system shall kept in good repair and working condition by the property owner at his or her own expense. Any costs of repairs on the sewer line between the point of use and the city sewer mains shall be borne by the property owner.

### § 51.05 DRAINAGE; CONNECTION TO SANITARY SEWER PROHIBITED.

No roof, surface, foundation, or other ground water drain line or lines shall be connected to the sanitary sewer system, either on the owner's property or that of the city.

## Merrill – Public Works

### § 51.06 SEPARATE CONNECTION REQUIRED.

No property owner shall permit any other person to connect any other sanitary facilities with the property's owner's own facilities. (*Ord. 265, passed 7-7-1987*) Penalty, see § 51.99

### § 51.07 INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL USERS; GREASE TRAPS.

(A) *Grease traps required.* All commercial or industrial users of the municipal sewage system shall have a grease trap on any sewer connection where industrial or commercial wastes are or may be deposited into the system.

(B) *Inspections.* The county Health Department, the city Chief of Police, or their duly authorized representatives shall have all the right to inspect the industrial or commercially used sewer connections for grease traps.

(C) *Size of grease trap.* The size of grease traps required for each individual business shall be that as required by the state and count Health Departments or deemed appropriate by them.

(*Ord. 0202, passed 9-2-1975*) Penalty, see § 51.99

## ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

### § 51.20 SUPERVISION AND ENFORCEMENT.

The City Council shall have general supervision of the city sanitary sewer system, with the power to enforce the provisions of all ordinances, rules, and regulations relating to the system. The Council may, by resolution, designate a Superintendent, who shall have general supervisory control over the system and power to enforce the rules and regulations of the council in relation thereto.

### § 51.21 ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARGES.

(A) Service charges, hookup charges, and all other charges for use of the city's sanitary sewer system, service period, and due dates for payment of these charges shall be established by the City Council by resolution. The city retains jurisdiction to alter the charges, service periods, and due dates from time to time by resolution.

(*Ord. 265, passed 7-7-1987*)

## Sewers

(B) All past actions by the officers of the city in establishing charges and fees for the city's municipal sanitary sewer system are hereby ratified and confirmed.

### § 51.22 DELINQUENT PAYMENT; COLLECTION.

(A) All charges assessed under § 51.21 above, or any other provision of this chapter, that are not paid as established under the provisions of that section shall be delinquent. A penalty of \$5 for sewer service users only shall be added to all charges delinquent in excess of 30 days. All charges and penalties which are delinquent for a period in excess of 70 days shall be docketed in the municipal lien docket and shall be a lien upon the property served. It may be collected by an action at law or may be foreclosed in any manner provided by law for the foreclosure of liens by cities.

(B) (1) Where the charges and penalties are delinquent for a period in excess of 70 days, the water service to the property shall be disconnected and shall not again be restored until all charges, penalties, and all charges for disconnection and reconnection of water service have been paid.

(2) Any person who reconnects a line which has been disconnected under the provisions of this chapter without first paying all charges due the terms of this chapter and receiving the permission of the Public Works Director is in violation of this chapter.

(C) The owner of the premises to which sanitary sewer service is furnished by the city shall be responsible for the payment of all charges imposed under the terms of this chapter and Chapter 110 of this code. It shall be his or her duty to pay these charges. The city shall notify the occupant of the property of any delinquent charges 14 days in advance of shutoff by placement of a door hanger notice on the premises and shall notify the property owner of any delinquent charges seven days in advance of shutoff, by certified mail with return receipt, and should the property owner fail to pay the charges, the city may collect the charges in any manner provided by this chapter.

(D) The notice shall state that a customer may request a meeting with the Public Works Director to contest the validity of the bill. If the Bill is determined to be in error, the director is authorized to make a correction. The customer may appeal a decision of the Director to the Council.

*(Ord. 265, passed 7-7-1987) Penalty, see § 51.99*

***Cross-reference:***

*Payment due date, see § 50.65*

### § 51.23 SEWER HOOKUP CHARGE.

All persons or parties connecting their building or structures with the city sanitary

**Merrill – Public Works**

sewer system shall pay in advance to the city a minimum hookup charge of \$1500 and outside City limits shall pay in advance to the city a minimum hookup charge of \$2250. Any additional cost for connection will be billed and paid by the persons or parties connecting to the sewer. Any person expecting to have a sanitary sewer connection made shall notify the City Recorder or the Superintendent not less than 30 before he or she is ready for the hookup or connection to be made. However, the city shall not excavate or do any construction work thereon, until the hookup charge has been fully paid.

*(Res. 576, passed 7-14-1998; Res 2022-908, passed 12-14-2022; Am. Res. 2025-960, passed 2-12-2025)*

**§ 51.24 SEWER RATES.**

The sewer rates shall be established by Council by resolution from time to time.

***Cross-reference:***

*Rental units; deposit required, see § 50.63*

*Revenue disposition, see § 50.66*

Section 1: The following sewer rates, effective retroactively to July 1, 2016, will replace the present rates set forth in Resolution 678 Section 1:

All residential buildings, whether single family dwellings, 1445, or apartments, shall pay a charge per residential unit. Residential unit shall mean any place established for occupancy as a residence by one or more persons. The charge shall be:

(a) Inside the city limits per unit	\$ 36.00 per month
Outside the city limits per unit	\$ 38.50 per month
(b) Medium water users, i.e. restaurants	\$ 64.50 per month
(c) High water users, i.e. Laundromat, schools	\$ 88.50 per month
(d) Trailer Courts and Motels	\$ 153.50 per month
(e) Industrial Zone	\$ 88.50 per month
(f) RV Dump	\$ 10.00 per vehicle

Section 2: All other Resolutions or Ordinances, or parts of Resolution or Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

*(Res. 2016-758, Passed 7-12-2016; Am. Res. No. 2026-994, passed 3-11-2026)*

**§ 51.99 PENALTY.**

(A) Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter for which no other penalty is provided shall, upon conviction, be subject to penalties as set forth in § 10.99 of this code.

(B) (1) Violation of § 51.07 of this code is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$200.

(2) Each additional day the operator of an establishment violates the provision of § 51.07 shall be a separate violation of this chapter.  
*(Ord. 202, passed 9-2-1975)*

(C) Any person who violates the provisions of § 51.01-51.06 or § 51.20-51.23 of this code shall, upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.  
*(Ord. 265, passed 7-7-1987)*

(D) Any person who violates any provisions of § 51.24 illegal usage or tampering of the RV Dump and Non-potable Station will result in a fine of \$500.00 per offense.  
*(Res. No. 2026-994, passed 3-11-2026)*