

TITLE 5

Municipal Utilities

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CHAPTER 1

General Provisions

- § 5-1-1     Meters.
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- § 5-1-6     Only authorized persons to use water from public hydrants.

Sec. 5-1-1       Meters.

(a) Every regular consumer of water shall be supplied with a meter by the city, which meter shall be under the exclusive control of the city, for which the consumer shall deposit an amount as determined by the mayor and council and filed in the city clerk's office; this amount shall be refunded by the city in the event that any consumer discontinues the use of city water, less all charges which may stand against that consumer.

(b) Water meters shall be located at the property line adjacent to a street or alleyway or at any other location as determined by the city. The person in whose name the service is rendered shall be responsible for water rents.

Sec. 5-1-2       Schedule of water and sewer rates.

The schedule of water and sewer rates and connection fees, as set from time to time by the mayor and council, shall be kept current and maintained in the office of the city clerk.

Sec. 5-1-3       Deposit required; discontinuance of service for nonpayment; reinstatement of service.

Each user of city utility service shall deposit with the city clerk an amount determined by the mayor and council as a utility deposit. This amount shall remain on deposit in the city treasury as a guarantee for payment of utility charges. In the event that the customer fails to pay the charges, then the city clerk shall apply the deposit towards liquidation of the amount due by the customer, and the water supply to his premises shall be disconnected. The city is required to give the utility user three (3) days' notice before discontinuing service for nonpayment of bills. Service shall be reinstated following discontinuance only when the delinquent account has been paid in full

and upon payment to the city of a reinstatement fee as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council.

Cross Reference: Refuse disposal charges combined with water bill, Sec. 4-2-3(c).

Sec. 5-1-4      Must connect to water before occupying any building.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy any building of any kind unless the same is connected with the water system of the city.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person except an authorized employee of the city to connect with or tap any water main of the city, except with the specific authorization of the employee and under his supervision.

Sec. 5-1-5      Unlawful to tamper with meter or any parts thereof.

It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, tamper or in any way meddle with any water meter box, rim cover thereto, or any part of any water meter box.

Sec. 5-1-6      Only authorized persons to use water from public hydrants.

No person, except authorized city officers and employees, shall take water from any public hydrant, plug, street washer or drain cock.

## CHAPTER 2

### Sewer Use

Historical Note: The provisions codified in this chapter are derived from an ordinance adopted March, 1974.

- § 5-2-1 Definitions.
- § 5-2-2 Industrial waste prohibited.
- § 5-2-3 Use of public sewers required.
- § 5-2-4 Building sewers and connections.
- § 5-2-5 Use of public sewers.
- § 5-2-6 Damage to system.
- § 5-2-7 Powers and authority of inspectors.

#### Sec. 5-2-1 Definitions.

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meanings of terms used in this chapter shall be as follows.

(1) Waste water treatment plant shall mean the city's facilities for treating and disposing of sewage.

(2) Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20 degrees C. expressed in milligrams per liter.

(3) Building drain shall mean that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the drainage from soil waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five (5) feet outside the inner face of the building wall.

(4) Building sewer shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal, also called house connection.

(5) Easement shall mean an acquired legal right for the specific use of land owned by others.

(6) Garbage shall mean the animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking, and serving of food.

(7) Floatable oil is oil, fat, or grease in a physical state such that it will separate by gravity from wastewater by treatment in an approved pretreatment facility. A wastewater shall be considered free of floatable fat if it is properly pretreated and the wastewater does not interfere with the collection system.

(8) Will or shall is mandatory.

- (9) May is permissive.
- (10) Person shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or group.
- (11) pH shall mean the reciprocal of the logarithm of the hydrogen-ion concentration. The concentration is the weight of hydrogen-ions, in grams, per liter of solution. Neutral water, for example, has a pH value of 7 and a hydrogen-ion concentration of  $10^{-7}$ .
- (12) Properly shredded garbage shall mean the wastes from the preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food that have been shredded 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 (1/2) inch in any dimension.
- (13) Public sewer shall mean a common sewer controlled by a governmental agency or public utility.
- (14) Sanitary sewer shall mean a sewer that carries liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, and institutions, together with minor quantities of ground, storm, and surface waters that are not admitted intentionally.
- (15) Sewage is the spent water of a community.
- (16) Sewer shall mean a pipe or conduit that carries wastewater.
- (17) Constituents shall mean the combination of particles or conditions which exist in the sewage.
- (18) City shall mean the City of Sardis, or the City Council of Sardis.
- (19) Composite sample shall mean a sample of sewage made up of individual smaller samples so taken to represent the nature of sewage.
- (20) Influent shall mean wastewaters arriving at the wastewater treatment plant.
- (21) Effluent shall mean the discharge of treated liquid flowing from the treatment plant.
- (22) Standard methods shall mean the latest edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" as prepared, approved and published by the APWA, WPCF, and APHA.
- (23) Sewer service charge shall mean charges made by the city for sewage service as a percentage of water charge.

(24) Residential or domestic user shall mean a person who discharges wastes into the sewage system.

(25) Industrial wastes shall mean the wastewater from industrial processes, trade, or business as distinct from domestic or sanitary wastes.

(26) Storm sewer shall mean a sewer for conveying water, groundwater, subsurface water, or unpolluted water from any source.

(27) Wastewater facilities shall mean the structures, equipment, and processes required to collect, carry away, and treat domestic wastes and dispose of the effluent.

(28) Wastewater treatment works shall mean an arrangement of devices and structures for treating wastewater, sometimes used as synonymous with "waste treatment plant" or "wastewater treatment plant" or "water pollution control plant."

Sec. 5-2-2 Industrial waste prohibited.

No industrial wastes as herein defined shall be admitted directly or indirectly into the sanitary sewerage system of the city.

Sec. 5-2-3 Use of public sewers required.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit, or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within the city, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said city, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or objectionable waste.

(b) It shall be unlawful to discharge to any natural outlet within the city, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said city, any wastewater or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this chapter.

(c) Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of wastewater.

(d) The owners of all 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 sewer of the city is hereby required at the owner's expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, within 90 days after date of official notice to do so, provided

that said public sewer is within 100 feet (30.5 meters) of the property line.

Sec. 5-2-4 Building sewers and connections.

(a) No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the superintendent.

(b) There shall be one (1) class of building sewer permit for residential and commercial service. The owner or his agent shall make application on a special form furnished by the city. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the superintendent. A permit and inspection fee as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council for a residential or commercial building sewer permit, shall be paid to the city at the time the application is filed.

(c) All costs and expenses incidental to the installation and connection 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.

(d) A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building, except where one building stands at the rear of another or 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, the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer, but the city does not and will not assume any obligation or responsibility for damage caused by or resulting from any such single connection aforementioned.

(e) Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test by the superintendent, to meet all requirements of this chapter.

(f) The size, slope, alignment, materials of construction of a building sewer, and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of the pipe, jointing, testing, and backfilling the trench, shall all conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the city. In the absence of code provisions or in amplification thereof, the materials and procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the ASTM and WPCF Manual of Practice No. 9 shall apply.

(g) Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such

building drain shall be lifted by an approved means and discharged to the building sewer.

(h) No person shall make connections of roof downspouts, foundation drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer, unless such connection is approved by the superintendent for the purposes of disposal of polluted surface drainage.

(i) The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the city, or the procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the ASTM and the WPCF Manual of Practice No. 9. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight and verified by proper testing. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the superintendent before installation.

(j) The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the superintendent when the building sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection and testing shall be made under the supervision of the superintendent or his representative.

(k) All excavations for building sewer installations shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways, and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the city.

Sec. 5-2-5 Use of public sewers.

(a) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

(1) Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas.

(2) Any waters containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids, or gases shall not be discharged into the sewer to injure or interfere with any waste treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the wastewater treatment plant.

(3) Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structure, equipment, and personnel of the wastewater works.

(4) 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 wastewater

facilities such as, but not limited to, ashes, bones, 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.

(b) The following described substances, materials, waters, or waste shall be limited in discharges to municipal systems to concentrations or quantities which will not harm either the sewers, wastewater treatment process or equipment, will not have an adverse effect on the receiving stream, or will not otherwise endanger lives, limb, public property, or constitute a nuisance. The superintendent may set limitations lower than the limitations established in the regulations below if, in his opinion, such more severe limitations are necessary to meet the above objectives. In forming his opinion as to the acceptability, the superintendent will give consideration to such factors as the quantity of subject waste in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, the wastewater treatment process employed, capacity of the wastewater treatment plant, degree of treatability of the waste in the wastewater treatment plant, and other pertinent factors. The limitations or restrictions on materials or characteristics of waste or wastewaters discharged to the sanitary sewer which shall not be violated without approval of the superintendent are as follows:

(1) Wastewater having a temperature higher than 150 degrees Fahrenheit (65 degrees Celsius).

(2) Wastewater containing more than 25 milligrams per liter of petroleum oil, nonbiodegradable cutting oils, or products of mineral oil origin.

(3) No industrial wastewater will be released into the sewer.

(4) Any garbage that has not been properly shredded (see section 5-2-1(12)). Garbage grinders may be connected to sanitary sewers from homes, hotels, institutions, restaurants, hospitals, catering establishments, or similar places where garbage originates from the preparation of food in kitchens for the purpose of consumption on the premises or when served by caterers.

(5) No water or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc, and similar objectionable or toxic substance shall be released in the sewer system.

(6) Any water or wastes containing odor-producing substances exceeding limits which may be established by the superintendent.

(7) Radioactive wastes or isotopes shall not be released into the sewer.



(8) Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the wastewater treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the wastewater treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.

(9) Any water or wastes which, by interaction with other water or wastes in the public sewer system, release obnoxious gases, form suspended solids which interfere with the collection system, or create a condition deleterious to structures and treatment processes.

(c) 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. Sampling methods, location, times, durations, and frequencies are to be determined on an individual basis subject to approval by the superintendent.

Sec. 5-2-6          Damage to system.

No person shall maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is a part of the wastewater facilities. Any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest under charge of disorderly conduct.

Sec. 5-2-7          Powers and authority of inspectors.

(a) 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 pertinent to discharge to the community system in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(b) 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 wastewater facilities 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.

**LICENSING AND  
REGULATION**