

PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 20, 2022

In Attendance

Vice Chair Raquetta Dotley, enacting as Committee Chair for Councilman Isiah Hester, called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the John P. Franklin, Sr. City Council Building. A quorum was present that also included Council Chairman Darrin Ledford and Councilpersons Chip Henderson, Jenny Hill, Ken Smith, Carol Berz, and Marvene Noel. Others present were Phil Noblett, Deputy City Attorney, and Kyana Grady, Council Administrative Assistant. Councilpersons Isiah Hester and Demetrus Coonrod were not present.

Others in Attendance

Public Works: Tom Hutka, Public Works Administrator; Bill Payne, City Engineer; and Scott Martin, Parks & Outdoors Administrator

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilwoman Hill and seconded by Councilwoman Noel, the minutes of the last meeting (September 6, 2022) were approved as published.

Resolutions - Agenda Item 7C & 7D

Vice Chair Dotley advised the Council that the Alternative Versions of both resolutions are being adopted in place of the original proposed items. The revisions removed the waiver of deposits for both festivals. Upon no further questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Next week, September 27, 2022

Resolutions - Agenda Item 7K & 7L

These items had been discussed at previous open meetings. Upon no questions or comments, the issues were closed.

Sewer Lateral Presentation

Vice Chair Dotley opened the floor for a presentation regarding the Wastewater Lateral Ordinance Revisions.

The presentation began with Councilman Henderson defining a sewer lateral, the interworking of how the revisions will create a “win/win” situation for both constituents and the City, and the one lined sentence in the revision he created. He expressed gratitude to the Administration for their support of these revisions. He then introduced Mr. Hutka, who explained the benefit in operation of wastewater system, expressing thanks to Bill Payne, Mark Heinzer, the Wastewater staff, Attorney Noblett, and Councilman Henderson for their dedication to the project.

Mr. Payne then began the visual presentation (*see attached*) that covered the following:

- Overview
- City Code Chapter 31: Changes
- City Code Chapter 31-4: Changes
- City Code Chapter 31-4: Not Changing
- City Code Chapter 31-4: Not Changing Continued
- Customer Process
- City Operational Approach
- Damage Claims

Following the presentation Mr. Payne opened the floor to questions and comments. A discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Why are these changes in the best interest of the city? (Hill)
- Acknowledgement of Co-Sponsorship (Hill)
- Fiscal reality estimation and impact on wastewater fees (Hill)
- Cleanout responsibility (Ledford)
- Failure in Right-of-Ways (Ledford)
- Appreciation of Legislation (Ledford)
- City opportunity for involvement (Ledford)
- Final expression of gratitude to Mr. Payne and his crew, and Chief of Staff (Henderson)

With no objection from the Council, Vice Chair Dotley instructed the Clerk to add the ordinance to the two-week Council agenda. Upon no questions or comments, the issue was closed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Chair Dotley adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

*Attachment:
Public Works Presentation*



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Wastewater Lateral
Ordinance Revisions

September 20, 2022

Overview

- **What is changing**
 - Responsibility of 4" laterals in the right-of-way
- **What is NOT changing**
 - Responsibility of 4" laterals on private property
 - Responsibility of larger laterals in the right-of-way
- **Customer process outline**
- **City process outline**



City Code Chapter 31: Changes

Proposed ordinance changes:

Chapter 31- 4: Sewer lateral changes

Chapter 31-14: Change to connection point for separating communal private sewer laterals



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City Code Chapter 31- 4: Changes

- City will repair or replace broken or damaged four inch and smaller wastewater laterals within the City Right-of-Way
- Customer's plumber must make every effort to clear blockages
- Customer video verification of breaks or damage within the right-of-way is required
- Customer to provide a bi-directional cleanout at the right-of-way line prior to City repairs, if one does not already exist.



City Code Chapter 31- 4: Not changing

- Laterals outside the right-of-way (on private property) remain the customer's responsibility.
- Laterals larger than 4 inches in diameter (commercial, multifamily, industrial, etc.) remain property owner responsibility.
- Laterals on private property or in easements remain property owner responsibility regardless of size.



City Code Chapter 31- 4: Not changing

- Only affects properties connected to the City of Chattanooga wastewater collection system. Private sewers or sewers owned by other utilities are excluded.
- Installation of new service connections are the responsibility of the property owner all the way to the main, regardless of location.
- Lateral obstructions created by roots, grease, rags, etc., that can be cleaned or removed remain the responsibility of the property owner.



Customer Process

STEP 1

Plumber confirms problem and installs cleanout (if necessary)

STEP 2

Property owner calls 311 to submit the request

STEP 3

Wastewater staff reviews plumber's data and contacts owner

STEP 4

Repair is performed once confirmed



City Operational Approach

- Initially, repairs will be made using existing city blanket contracts for sewer and pavement repairs.
- A new blanket contract specifically for this service will be created.
- Certain repairs may also be made by City crews as resources allow.
- Customers will initiate the process by calling 311 once their plumber has inspected the lateral and installed the cleanout, if necessary.



Damage Claims

- Any claims related to damage caused by sewer lateral issues where the City has accepted maintenance responsibility can be filed with the City attorney's office (**OPTION 1 FOR BILL P.**)
- Any claims related to damage caused by sewer lateral issues within the Right-of-Way may be filed with the City Attorney's Office; however claims related to obstructions that can be removed may be denied.
- **Damage due to a sewer backup may be reimbursable by the City**
 - collapsed





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