
City Code, Chapter 14: PUBLIC HEALTH, WELLS, SEWERS, AND UTILITIES

CHAPTER 14
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELLS, SEWERS, AND UTILITIES

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CHAPTER 14
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELLS, SEWERS, AND UTILITIES

ARTICLE I
TITLE AND INTERPRETATION

SECTION 14-100. TITLE. This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Public Health: Wells, Sewers, and Solid Waste Ordinance of the City of Columbus, Minnesota.”

[§ 14-100, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-110. PROVISION OF ORDINANCE DECLARED TO BE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements adopted for the promotion of the public health, safety, and the general welfare. Where the requirements of this ordinance are at variance or in any other way conflict with the requirements of any other lawfully-adopted rules, regulations, ordinances, deed restrictions, or covenants, the most restrictive, or that imposing the higher standards shall govern.

SECTION 14-120. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. Should any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, word, or provision of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION 14-130. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCE, EFFECTIVE DATE. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 14-140. APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION.

A. For the purpose of these regulations, certain numbers, abbreviations, terms, words, and phrases used herein shall be used, interpreted and defined as set forth in this article.

B. Whenever any words and phrases used herein are not defined herein but are defined elsewhere in the City Code or in the State laws regulating the creation and function of various agencies, any such definition therein shall be deemed to apply to such words and phrases used herein, except when the context otherwise requires.

C. For the purpose of these regulations, certain words and phrases used herein shall be interpreted as follows:

1. The word “person” includes an individual, firm, association, organization, partnership, trust, company, corporation, or any other legal entity.

2. The masculine includes the feminine.

3. The present tense includes the past and future tense, the singular number includes the plural.

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4. The word “shall” is a mandatory requirement, the word “may” is a permissive requirement, and the word “should” is a preferred requirement.

5. The words “used” or “occupied” include the words “intended, arranged, or designed to be used or occupied.”

6. The word “lot” includes the words “plot,” “parcel,” and “tract.”

[§ 14-140, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-141. ABATEMENT. Upon notification from the Building Inspector or from the Anoka County health officials of an uncorrected violation of this Chapter, the City Council may, in addition to any other lawful remedies, order that the violation be abated. Any action by the City to abate said violation shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 16C of this City Code.

[CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE I, §14-141, added by Ord. No. 86-4, effective June 27, 1986, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-150. ADMINISTRATION. This chapter of the City Code shall be principally administered and enforced through the coordinated offices of the City Administrator and the Building Inspector. When site conditions make it unlikely that the strict requirements of this Chapter can be met, the property owner may apply for a Variance. Any Individual Sewage Treatment System which by its design, capacity or location requires a State agency permit shall also require a Conditional Use Permit. Variance applications and Conditional Use applications shall be administered and adjudicated in accordance with Chapters 7A and 10 of this City Code.

[§ 14-150, added by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009.]

ARTICLE II **PRIVATE WELLS**

SECTION 14-200. ADOPTION OF STATE CODE. (Deleted)

[CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE II, § 14-200, amended by Ord. No. 89-17, effective December 8, 1989, [§ 14-200, deleted by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990.]

SECTION 14-201. WELLS REGULATED BY STATE LAW. No person shall construct, repair, or seal a well or boring, except as provided under the provisions of Minn. Stat. Ch. 103I (1991) and the regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Natural Resources pursuant to said statutes.

[§ 14-201, added by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 92-2, effective April 17, 1992.]

SECTION 14-210. RESTRICTIONS. (Deleted)

SECTION 14-220. PERMIT REQUIRED. (Deleted)

SECTION 14-230. APPLICATION. (Deleted)

SECTION 14-240. PERMIT FEES. (Deleted)

SECTION 14-250. INSPECTION. (Deleted)

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SECTION 14-260. RESTRICTIONS ON CONSTRUCTION AND USE. (Deleted)

[CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE II, § 14-210, § 14-220, § 14-230, § 14-240, § 14-250, and § 14-260, deleted by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990.]

ARTICLE III
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM AND CONNECTIONS

SECTION 14-300. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT. There is hereby established a Sewer and Water Department for the City of Columbus (the "City"). The sewer and water system as now constituted, or as shall hereafter be enlarged or extended, shall be operated and maintained under the provisions of this Ordinance subject to the authority of the City Council at any time to amend, alter, change or repeal the same. If there are any conflicts between Article III of City Code Chapter 14 and other Articles within Chapter 14, the provisions within Article III shall prevail.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-300, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006.]

SECTION 14-301. CITY COUNCIL. The City Council shall have charge and management of the sewer and water system subject to such delegation of authority to the City Engineer, Public Works Supervisor and to other City employees as the City Council shall provide.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-301, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006.]

SECTION 14-302. DEFINITIONS. The terms used herein shall be defined as follows:

BUILDING DRAIN. The building drain is that part of the lowest horizontal piping of the building drainage system which receives the discharge from other drainage pipes and which lies within the perimeter of the building.

BUILDING SEWER. The building sewer is that part of the building drainage system that extends from the building drain to the sewer service line at the property line.

DETERMINATION. The computation of Service Availability Charge unit(s) assigned to a given property. A Determination should be performed when modification is made to the use of the property.

FACILITIES. Facilities means and includes waterworks and sanitary sewer systems, or any portion or portions thereof.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. A property that is used exclusively for permanent human living space, including single family homes, attached homes, town homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes. Residential Property does not include motels, hotels, camps, apartment complexes, nursing homes, senior housing, or prisons.

SANITARY SEWER. Sanitary sewer means sanitary sewer systems, including sewage treatment works, disposal systems, and other facilities for disposing of sewage, industrial waste, and other wastes.

SEWER SERVICE. The sewer service line is that piping which receives the building sewer discharge at the property line and extends to the City sewer main line.

WATERWORKS. Waterworks means waterworks systems, including mains, valves, hydrants, service connections, wells, pumps, reservoirs, tanks, treatment plants, and other appurtenances of a waterworks system.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-302 added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006.]

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SECTION 14-303. SUPERVISION AND PLUMBING STANDARDS. The City Inspector shall inspect all sewer connections made to the Sanitary Sewer system, all water connections made to the Waterworks system, and excavations for the purpose of installing or repairing the same.

The expense of cleaning any debris causing blockage or any of the repairs in the Building Sewer drainage system, Building Drain, Sewer Service lines, or Waterworks service lines up to the City main lines in the street, including the wye, or otherwise, shall be borne by and paid for by the owner of the property served by the Sewer Service line or Waterworks service line. The owner of the property shall also pay for any damages done to the City main lines, including the cleaning and any repairs of the said sewer main line caused by said debris and cleaning or repairs of said Building Sewer drainage system, Building Drain, and Sewer Service lines. The City shall have no obligation to clean any blockage in or repair any such Building Sewer drainage system, Building Drain, Sewer Service line, or Waterworks service line, whether on private property or public property.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-301, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-304. APPLICATION, PERMIT, USAGE AND CONNECTION CHARGE. No person, firm or corporation shall make any type of connection, repair, enlargement or alteration to the City Facilities system except upon making an application therefore on a form provided by the City and receiving a permit issued by the City for such purposes. The application shall include the legal description of the property to be served, the uses for which the connection is requested, and a sketch of the service showing approximate location and the size of the service line to be used. At the time of taking such application, there shall be paid to the City the following fees for the following purposes:

A. **ASSESSMENTS PAID.** No connection shall be made with respect to any Sanitary Sewer or water main serving the property or any person or occupants of the land, parcel or premises affected unless all assessments for such sewer or water, or such installments thereof as are due and payable have been paid or provided for the payment of the full and proportionate share of the utility, which share shall be payable as described under Section 14-304.

B. **PAYMENTS FOR INSTALLING SERVICE LINE.** For service to the property for which a Sewer Service or water service line has not been previously installed from the main line to the property line, the owner, occupant or user shall contract with a licensed utility installer or plumber for the installation of said line and all payments required shall be assumed by the owner, occupant, or user. Only a utility installer or plumber licensed to operate in the City shall be allowed to install service lines within public right-of-ways.

C. **SERVICE TO PROPERTY OUTSIDE OF THE CITY.** For Facilities service to property outside of the City, the owner, occupant or user shall pay to the City at the time of application for permit an amount not less than the payments made by or charges placed against comparable properties for like service within the City in an amount as may be established by the City Board.

D. **CITY'S AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE CHARGES FOR SEWER AND WATER CONNECTION.** Under Minnesota Statutes § 444.075, subdivision 3, as amended, in order to pay for the construction, reconstruction, repair, enlargement, improvement, or other obtainment, the maintenance, operation and use of the Facilities, and of obtaining and complying with permits required by law, the City Council may impose just and equitable charges for the use and for the availability of the Facilities and for connections with them and make contracts for the charges.

[Section 14-304 D. amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009.]

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E. **SEWER CONNECTION CHARGES.** Every lot, parcel of land or building will be charged a specific sum of money, in order to connect to City's Facilities. Such a charge is made for the privilege of making such a connection, either directly or indirectly, to the disposal system through which connection the Facilities of the City are made available for disposal of sewage, industrial waste, water or other liquid from such premises. This charge hereinafter is referred to as the City's Service Availability Charge (the "SAC"). The City's SAC fee is \$300.00 per SAC unit and is subject to amendment by ordinance. The City's SAC fee is in addition to the SAC unit charge made by the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services ("MCES"). The total SAC charge for each building or structure shall be equal to its number of SAC units multiplied by the current year SAC rate mandated by the MCES plus the number of SAC units multiplied by the City's current SAC rate.

The owner of any property desiring to connect such property to an existing Sanitary Sewer main where such property has not previously been connected to said main may do so on the approval of the City and upon paying a City and MCES SAC.

F. **WATER CONNECTION CHARGES.** Every lot, parcel of land or building will be charged a specific sum of money, in order to connect to City's Facilities. Such a charge is made for the privilege of making such a connection, either directly or indirectly, to the Waterworks system through which connection the Facilities of the City are made available for the supply of water for domestic, commercial, and industrial use, lawn irrigation and other outdoor use and fire suppression. This charge hereinafter is referred to as the City's Water Availability Charge (the "WAC"). The City's WAC fee is \$1,100.00 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) and is subject to amendment by ordinance. The total WAC charge for each property shall be equal to its maximum number of ERUs multiplied by the City's current WAC rate.

The owner of any property desiring to connect such property to City's Facilities where such property has not previously been connected may do so on the approval of the City and upon paying a City WAC.

G. **PAYMENT OF CONNECTION CHARGES.** Connection charges are payable at the time of building permit issuance. The Building Official shall not issue a building permit until such connection charge is paid.

H. **APPLICATION AND PERMIT.** No connection from any premises to City's Facilities is authorized without there being first obtained for such connection a permit issued by the City. No permit may be obtained from the City, and no representative of the City is authorized to issue a permit for connection unless and until an authorized representative of the City receives an application for such connection, determines and establishes the type of connection to be made and receives the connection charge required or unless by approval of the City Council such payment is deferred or is to be made in installments. The City shall prepare and provide for and furnish any form and instrument found necessary to the connection applications and permits of the City and perform all acts reasonably required with respect thereto. Applications and permits shall be uniform, in accordance with this Ordinance.

I. **ADMINISTRATION.** The Building Official shall prepare or revise a building permit or sewage and water connection permit application form to provide information necessary for the computation of the number of City SAC and WAC units assignable to the building or property in question, and shall collect the applicable charge before issuance of a permit. The Building Official shall make such information available to the City Council upon request. If upon filing a

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report covering such permit with the MCES, the Council determines that a greater number of units is assignable to the building or structure in question, any additional amount of cost allocated to the City as a result shall be paid by the person or company to whom the permit was granted.

J. INCREASED CONNECTION CHARGES BASED ON MEASUREMENTS. The Determination and establishment in the first instance of the City SAC represented by the connection, especially when made by estimate based upon representation of the owner or occupancy of the premises, is at all times subject to further review and Determination after the connection has been made and used by an actual measurement by the City or MCES of the sewage or water discharge from such connection entering into the system of the City. The receipt and acceptance by the City of any money paid and received by the City, as previously imposed, does not bar the City's right to payment of the correct amount of money due therefore, and may be determined and established by actual measurement; and the City's right to recover therefore is not impaired. After a connection has been made and the connection charge established, imposed and paid, no diminution in discharge from the premises shall entitle the owner (or occupant) to a reduction, reimbursement or refund with respect to the connection charge imposed and paid.

K. CALCULATION OF SEWER CONNECTION CHARGES.

1. There shall be a charge for each City SAC unit, as established from time to time by ordinance of the City Board.
2. The following are hereby established as connection units:
 - (a) All Residential Properties shall be assigned one SAC unit per dwelling unit.
 - (b) Commercial, institutional, industrial and other building types shall be assigned a minimum of one unit. In accordance with MCES policy and procedures, commercial City SAC units are determined by the approximate maximum wastewater flow potential and industrial City SAC units are determined based on maximum normal daily wastewater flow volume separately for process areas and maximum potential daily wastewater flow volume for commercial areas. The City will use the criteria in Appendix A to this ordinance for determining the SAC units identified for commercial facilities. The City SAC unit estimate for properties either not described in Appendix A, or industrial properties will be determined by the City Council in conjunction with the MCES. The City Council may review actual sewage flow one year after the initial discharge, and the City may impose such additional connection charges in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

The City shall provide information necessary for the computation of the number of units assignable to the building or structure in question on the building permit and sewer connection application forms and shall collect the applicable charge before issuance of the permit.

- (c) In accordance with MCES policy and procedures, the City Council may consider credit for a SAC unit previously paid on any property when a new use is established on a site. A new use is redevelopment of a property for a different use.

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(d) Any charges levied by and pursuant to Section 14-304, and which have been properly billed to the occupancy of any premises served, and not paid, may be covered in a civil action by the City in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(e) The funds received from the collection of charges authorized by this Ordinance shall be deposited, as collected, in a fund known as the Water and Sewer Fund, and shall be disbursed:

- 1) To meet costs of operation;
- 2) To the debt redemption to provide funds for the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued to finance the costs of constructing improvements to the City Facilities as prescribed by resolutions or covenants authorizing or securing such bonds; and
- 3) To provide funds for the reasonable requirements of extending, improving and replacing City Facilities.

L. CALCULATION OF WATER CONNECTION CHARGES.

1. There shall be a charge for each City WAC unit, as established from time to time by ordinance of the City Council.

2. The following are hereby established as connection units:

(a) Each property proposed to be connected to the City's Waterworks system shall have a determination made as to the number of ERUs of water demand the property can place on the Waterworks system. This determination shall be made by the City Engineer. The determination shall include the number of buildable acres contained within the subject property. Each buildable acre is determined to place a minimum of five (5) ERUs of water demand on the system.

(b) The water connection charge shall be the number of ERUs assigned to the property multiplied by the current WAC rate.

M. MULTIPLE CONNECTIONS. Multiple connections of more than one building to a single Building Sewer or Sewer Service line or single water service line shall be permitted only by special application to the City. The applicant shall submit a detailed sketch showing location, grades and special structures to the City Engineer for review prior to applying for a permit. All costs involved for the engineering review shall be paid by the applicant along with the other required fees at the time of issuance of the permit. The charge for the cost of the trunk lines, lift station, force mains and disposal facilities shall be levied against each property sought to be connected either through single services or multiple connections.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-304, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 2, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009.]

SECTION 14-305. REQUIRED CONNECTION TO CITY FACILITIES.

A. FACILITIES CONNECTION FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION. To protect the general health and welfare of the City it is required that all new construction of any residence, dwelling or building following the publication date of this ordinance, be connected to the City Facilities when such City Facilities become available. If the City Facilities are not immediately available, the owner of each new residence, dwelling or building shall be subject to a misdemeanor penalty as described in Section 1-109 of the City code if such Facilities connection is not made within one (1) year after the City Facilities become available.

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B. SEWER CONNECTIONS FOR EXISTING RESIDENCE, DWELLING OR BUILDING. To protect the general health and welfare of the City it is required that the liquid wastes from any plumbing system of any residence, dwelling or building be discharged to the public sewer system. The owner of each existing residence, dwelling or building as of the date of this published ordinance, to which Sewer Service becomes available shall be subject to a misdemeanor penalty as described in Section 1-109 of the City Code if such connection is not made within five (5) years after the property has been assessed and the Sewer Service becomes available.

C. WATER CONNECTIONS FOR EXISTING RESIDENCE, DWELLING OR BUILDING. To protect the general health and welfare of the City it is required that the owner of each existing residence, dwelling or building as of the date of this published ordinance, to which Waterworks become available shall be subject to a misdemeanor penalty as described in Section 1-109 of the City Code herein if such connection is not made within eight (8) years after the Waterworks become available.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-305, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006, amended by Ord. No. 12-06, effective July 12, 2012.]

SECTION 14-306. FAILED SEPTIC SYSTEM. To protect the general health and welfare of the City, the owner of each residence, dwelling or building to which Sewer Service is or becomes available, is required to make a connection to the City Facilities as soon as practicable should that owner's septic system fail. A failing system is defined as a seepage pit, cesspool, drywell, leaching pit, other pit, a tank that obviously leaks below the designated operating depth, or any system with less than the required vertical separation.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-306, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009.]

SECTION 14-307. CITY INSPECTOR. The City Inspector shall examine all applications before construction is begun and after the construction, enlargement, alteration or repair is complete, the City Inspector shall be notified. It shall be unlawful to cover any affected lines until an inspection has been made and such connection and the work incidental thereto has been approved by the City as a proper and suitable connection.

It shall be the duty of the sewer installer and/or plumber to notify the City Inspector by telephone or in writing, not less than eight working hours between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. before work is to be inspected or tested.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-307, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-308. EXISTING DRAINAGE AND PLUMBING SYSTEMS. Prior to connection to the City's Facilities, the City Inspector shall examine the existing drainage system and the interior plumbing system. All such systems shall conform to the requirements of this Ordinance and the requirement of the Minnesota Plumbing Code. In the event that such drainage system or plumbing system is determined to be non-conforming to the above requirements, the contractor, owner or occupant shall do whatever corrective work which may be necessary before final hook-up to the City's Facilities is made. The decision of the City Inspector as to the extent of corrective work to be done in each individual case to conform to the above requirements shall be final.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-308, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

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SECTION 14-309. INSTALLATION OF CONNECTIONS. All Sewer Services and Waterworks services shall be installed by an utility installer or Master Plumber licensed in the State of Minnesota and the City of Columbus. Any owner, occupant or licensed plumber may install, repair or make alteration to the Building Drain or Building Sewer lines provided that said construction is conducted under the regulations of this Ordinance. Prior to receiving a permit for plumbing work as outlined herein a satisfactory showing must be made that such plumber, excavator, or utility installer is carrying liability insurance in an accredited company with the City against loss as customarily provided in such policies.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-309, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-310. EXCAVATING WORK.

A. **CITY INSPECTION.** All installation work or repair of connection to the Sanitary Sewer, Sewer Service, or Waterworks system including grades, bends and backfilling shall be inspected by the City Inspector. No work shall be covered or backfilled until directed by said Inspector. All work and excavations shall be protected by barricades and warning markers and lights reasonable and suitable for the purpose. The City shall be held harmless of any claim or loss as might otherwise arise for damage, loss or injury caused by or arising by reason of such work being performed.

B. **EXCAVATION PROCEDURES.** No digging in any permanent type street shall be permitted except by special written permission from the City. Backfilling shall be thoroughly compacted by mechanical means to 95 percent Standard Proctor density. The top 12 inches of the excavation shall be backfilled with Class 5 gravel base material. The bituminous surface shall match existing thickness and shall be installed in accordance with Minnesota Highway Department Specification.

Where excavations are unsatisfactorily filled and surfacing is improperly patched, the City Council shall cause them to be placed in a satisfactory condition and the cost thereof shall be charged to such plumber making the same, and the privilege of such plumber doing further work within the City shall be suspended until such charge is paid. Such plumber shall be given notice thereof and ten days within which to pay such charge.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-310, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-311. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS. All Building Sewers and Sewer Service lines shall be of PVC schedule 40, ductile iron pipe, or extra strength cast iron soil pipe. Joints shall be made by using a City approved pre-formed compression gasket. Individual service lines shall not be less than 4 inches in diameter and shall be placed at a uniform grade of not less than 1/8 of an inch per foot. Sewer Service lines shall contain no more than two (2) 45 degree bends, clean out shall be at intervals not to exceed 80 feet. Multiple connections of more than one building shall be as approved by the City Engineer as described under Section 14-304.M. No interconnection of the existing private sewer system shall remain upon connection to the public system. If a Sewer Service connection is such that gravity flow can be had to the public sewer main and a sump pump is presently used, said sump pump shall be disconnected, discontinued and removed from service.

All water service lines shall be PVC AWWA C-900, ductile iron pipe, or Type K copper tubing. Service lines shall have a minimum of 7.5 feet of cover to adequately protect from freezing. Where a service has not previously been provided, all new connections to the watermain shall be performed “under pressure” and a gate valve or curb stop provided at the point of connection or property line.

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The service installer should verify the location and elevation of the connection before proceeding with the installation. Any deviation from the plan location which will affect the installing of the service connections, should be brought to the attention of the City immediately. The City will assume no responsibility for extra charges as a result of such misplaced connection unless it is notified before any work is done and has had an inspection made by its representative to confirm the condition and to authorize extra work.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-311, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-312. STORM WATER. It shall be unlawful for any owner, occupant or user of any premises to direct into or allow any storm water, surface water, groundwater or water from air conditioning systems to drain into the Sanitary Sewer of the City of Columbus.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-312, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-313. USE CHARGES.

A. **USE CHARGE.** For the purpose of providing monies necessary to the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Waterworks system of the City and the disposal system of the City and the MCES as well as additions thereto, or extensions thereof, including payment of principal and interest due or accruing on bonds and other obligations issued or incurred to finance such construction, maintenance, and operation, there is hereby charged a “use charge” to be collected by the City with respect to each lot, parcel of land, building or premises, having any connection, direct or indirect, with the Waterworks system of the City or with the disposal system of the City or otherwise discharging sewage, industrial waste, water or other waste directly or indirectly to the City disposal system. The “use charge” is to be paid periodically commencing with connection and continuing (unless for good cause, waived or excused) for as long as the premises remain connected, whether or not such connection is actively used during any particular period of time.

B. **COMPUTATION OF USE CHARGES.** The rates due and payable to the City by each owner or other account holder within the City for water taken from the water supply system shall be established and adopted by the City through its fee schedule on an annual basis. The rates due and payable to the City by each owner or other account holder within the City for sewage discharged to the disposal system shall be established and adopted by the City through its fee schedule on an annual basis. Owners and other account holders shall have the option of paying a rate for payments made on or before the due date listed on the bill or the option of paying an extended payment rate for payments made after the due date listed on the bill. The extended payment rate shall also include a charge of five percent (5%) of the current bill amount that is not paid by the due date listed on the bill. The five percent (5%) charge shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) in total for all utilities per billing account per billing period.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-313, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006, amended by Ord. No. 12-06, effective July 12, 2012.]

SECTION 14-314. BILLING REGULATIONS.

A. **QUARTERLY BILLING.** The City Treasurer or other designated person shall compute the amount due to the City for sewerage and water use and render a statement thereof quarterly. All amounts due as described herein shall be payable to the City of Columbus attention City Treasurer or other designated person by the 16th of the month following the date of the bill.

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B. **PENALTIES.** A penalty of ten percent (10%) shall be added to all bills not paid by the date fixed for final payment.

C. **INSTALLMENT PAYMENT FOR SEWER AVAILABILITY CHARGES.** Notwithstanding the requirements of Section 14-305.B., the City may enter into an agreement with a residential property owner to defer connection to the public sewer system provided the property owner agrees to make payment of local SAC fees on an installment basis. An installment payment agreement under this section shall include, at minimum: a schedule of installments due at not greater than annual intervals for a period not to exceed five years; a provision terminating the agreement upon failure to comply with the payment schedule; a provision terminating the agreement upon sale, transfer, development, or redevelopment of the property; and a provision terminating the agreement in the event that the property owner does not maintain the septic system in working order or maintain the required triennial pumping reports pursuant to Section 14-645.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-314, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006, as amended by Ord. No. 13-04, effective November 7, 2013, as amended by Ord. No. 14-03, effective May 1, 2014.]

SECTION 14-315. SEWER FUND. All funds received from the collection of assessments, connection charges, and sewerage use rates, shall be deposited by the City Treasurer or other designated person within seven days after the receipt thereof and kept by the designated person as a separate and distinct fund which shall be known as the Sewer Fund. These funds shall be used for the payment of all costs incurred by the City in connection with the construction, maintenance and operation of the Sanitary Sewer system within the City, and any excess received shall be used for retiring indebtedness incurred for the construction of such sewage disposal system.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-315, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-316. WATERFUND. All funds received from the collection of assessments, connection charges, and water use rates, shall be deposited by the City Treasurer or other designated person within seven days after the receipt thereof and kept by the designated person as a separate and distinct fund which shall be known as the Water Fund. These funds shall be used for the payment of all costs incurred by the City in connection with the construction, maintenance and operation of the Waterworks system within the City, and any excess received shall be used for retiring indebtedness incurred for the construction of such Waterworks system.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-316, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-317. COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT CHARGES. Under Minnesota Statute § 444.075, as amended, the City may make charges for the availability of the Facilities and may provide and covenant for certifying unpaid charges to the county auditor with taxes against the property served for collection as other taxes are collected.

A. **DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS.** Accounts shall be considered delinquent when no payments have been received after ninety (90) days following the due day and no arrangement for payment has been agreed to by the owner or other account holder.

B. **DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE CHARGE.** It shall be the duty of the City Treasurer to endeavor to promptly collect delinquent accounts, and in all cases where satisfactory arrangements for payment have not been made, instruction shall be given to discontinue service by shutting off the water at the stop box.

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C. **ASSESSMENT OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS.** All delinquent accounts shall be certified to the City Treasurer who shall prepare an assessment roll each year providing for assessment of the delinquent amounts against the respective properties served. The assessment shall include the amount of the delinquent account and an administrative charge of \$40.00, together with interest thereon at the maximum lawful rate. This assessment roll shall be delivered to the City Council for adoption on or before October first of each year. Such action may be optional or subsequent to taking legal action to collect delinquent accounts.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-317, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009.]

SECTION 14-318. WATER METERING REQUIREMENTS.

A. **WATER METER REQUIRED.** Except for extinguishment of fires, no person except authorized City employees shall use water from the water supply system of the City or permit water to be drawn therefrom, unless the water is metered by passing through a meter supplied or approved by the City. No person shall connect, disconnect, take apart, or in any manner change, or cause to be changed, or interfere with any such meter or the action thereof unless authorized by the City Council or designated City employees.

B. **WATER METER CHARGE.** A charge shall be made to owners or account holders for water meters, and payment for meters shall be made in advance before delivery for installation. Water meters shall be equipped with remote reading devices. The charge will be the actual cost to the City of supplying the meter.

C. **UNSERVICEABLE METERS.** The City shall maintain and repair or replace all meters when rendered unserviceable through ordinary wear and tear. However, when replacement, repair or adjustment of any meter is rendered necessary by the act, neglect or carelessness of the owner or occupant of any premises, any expense caused the City thereby shall be charged against and collected from the owner or occupant of the premises. Water service may be discontinued until the cause is corrected and the charge collected.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-318, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-319. WATER METER SETTING. All water meters hereafter installed shall be in accordance with the connection regulations of the City and the following rules:

A. **SERVICE PIPE.** The service pipe from the water main to the meter, when entering the building, shall be brought through the floor in a vertical position. The building valve shall be installed about twelve (12) inches above the floor.

B. **METER LOCATION.** The meter shall be located so that the bottom is from six (6) inches to twelve (12) inches above the finished floor line. The meter shall be set in the laundry area adjacent to a floor drain, unless an alternate method is approved by the Utility Division. A suitable bracket to support the meter in a proper vertical position and to prevent noise from vibration shall be provided.

C. **FULL WAY VALVE.** All meter installations shall have a full way valve on the street side of the meter. In no case shall there be more than twelve (12) inches of pipe exposed between the point of entrance through the basement floor and the building valve. A full way valve shall also be installed on the house side of and adjacent to the meter.

D. **COPPER PIPING.** Meter setting devices for 5/8 inch, 3/4 inch and one inch meters shall be of copper pipe or tubing from the terminus of the service pipe up to and including the house side full way valve.

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[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-319, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-320. RESTRICTED HOURS FOR SPRINKLING.

A. **RESTRICTIONS ON WATER USAGE.** Whenever it is determined by either the Mayor or the City Council that a shortage of water supply may be imminent, either may act in accordance with the procedures hereinafter described to limit the uses of City water and the time and hours during which water from the City water supply may be used.

B. **CITY COUNCIL ACTION.** The City Council may act by resolution to limit water usage. The resolution shall state in detail the restrictions imposed on water usage and the charge for instances of noncompliance. The restrictions shall become effective 24 hours after passage of the resolution. The City Council shall take such action as is reasonably practicable to inform the general public of the imposition of the restrictions on water usage and of the charges and other penalties which could be imposed for violation of such restrictions and post notice of water restrictions in public places where other City notices are posted.

C. **ACTION BY THE MAYOR.** The Mayor may act by filing with the City Clerk a written certification that there is an imminent shortage of water supply. The certification shall specify in detail the restrictions on water usage and the charge for instances of noncompliance and shall become effective 24 hours after being filed. The City Clerk shall endorse on each filing the time and date of filing. The Mayor shall take such action as is reasonably practicable to inform the general public of the imposition of restrictions on water usage and of the charges and other penalties for violation of such restrictions and post notice of the water restrictions in public places where other City notices are posted. Restrictions imposed by the Mayor may be revoked by written directive from the Mayor to the City Clerk, who shall endorse on such directive the date and time of receipt, or by action of the City Council.

D. **PENALTIES.**

1. For each instance of noncompliance with water usage restrictions imposed by this section, a charge of up to \$25.00 shall be assessed against the property on which the violation occurred and added to the water bill for such premises. The amount of the charge shall be specified by the City Council in its resolution and the Mayor in his certification to the City Clerk.

2. Failure to comply with water usage restrictions after two warnings shall be cause for the discontinuance of water service.

3. Failure to comply with water usage restrictions shall be a petty misdemeanor punishable by the maximum fine allowed by law for such offenses.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-320, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-321. SEPARABILITY OF SECTIONS. If any portion of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such portion shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-321, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-322. PENALTY PROVISION. Any person, firm or corporation who shall do or commit any act that is forbidden by the provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or to be imprisoned in the County Jail for a period not to exceed ninety days.

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[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-322, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-323. DEFERRAL OF SEWER AND WATER CONNECTION. Where there are practical difficulties or hardships in requiring Sewer Service and Waterworks connections for an existing residence, dwelling or building, the property owner may apply to the City Clerk for a deferral from the connection deadlines.

A. **SEWER AND WATER CONNECTION DEFERRAL APPLICATION.** In applying for a deferral from the City's five (5) year required Sewer Service connection and eight (8) year required Waterworks connection once each become available, as required by Section 14-305, the applicant shall show to the City Clerk that the applicant is unable to connect within the required timeframe because the applicant is: (1) over 65 years of age; (2) permanently and totally disabled; or (3) that it would be a financial hardship for the applicant to connect the Sewer Service or Waterworks. The applicant shall provide their adjusted gross income when illustrating that it would be a hardship to connect the Sewer Service or Waterworks. The City Clerk shall make a determination as whether or not to grant the Sewer Service or Waterworks connection deferral.

B. **APPEAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL.** Should the City Clerk deny the request to defer the Sewer Service and Waterworks connection, the applicant may appeal the City Clerk's decision to the City Council.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-323, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-324. ENTRY UPON PRIVATE PROPERTY. The City Engineer and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification, shall at reasonable times be permitted to enter upon all properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling and testing in connection with the operation of the City Sanitary Sewer and Waterworks system.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-324, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

SECTION 14-325. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to law.

[Chapter 14, Article III § 14-325, added by Ord. No. 06-01, effective March 2, 2006]

ARTICLE IV

[Reserved for future use.]

ARTICLE V

[Reserved for future use.]

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ARTICLE VI
PRIVATE SEWER SYSTEMS

SECTION 14-600. ADOPTION OF STATE CODE. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems or “SSTS” standards, cited as Minn. R. Chs. 7080-7083, and the Anoka County Sewage Treatment Ordinance (2013-1) are hereby adopted by the City of Columbus and are incorporated in the City Code of Ordinances as completely as if set out in full with the additions thereto contained in this Article. Copies of the Codes are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

[CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE VI, § 14-600, amended by Ord. No. 89-17, effective December 8, 1989, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990; amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-601. DEFINITIONS.

A. When not inconsistent with the context herein, definitions given elsewhere in this City Code shall be applicable to this Article.

B. The terms below shall have the following meanings in this Article.

1. “Building Official” means the City Building Official or a qualified designee of the City Building Official. 2. “Designer” means a natural person currently certified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as a Designer who is qualified to design Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems or parts of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems.

3. “Imminent Public Health Threat” means the occurrence of seepage pits; cesspools; blocked or leaking tanks; tanks that are not water tight; systems that are discharging onto the surface; systems that are deemed to be unsafe; or tanks that are located within the required separation as defined by Minn. R. Chs. 7080-7083.

4. “Inspector” means a natural person currently certified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an Inspector who is qualified to approve the designs of, issue permits for, and inspects installation, construction, operation and maintenance of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems.

5. “Installer” means a natural person currently certified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an Installer, who is the person on the job site who is responsible for the lawful installation or repair of an SSTS.

6. “Maintainer” means a natural person currently holding an SSTS business license to perform service as a Maintainer.

7. “Site Evaluator” means a natural person, currently certified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as a Site Evaluator, who is qualified to investigate and evaluate a site to determine its suitability for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a Subsurface Sewage Treatment System.

8. “Soil Treatment Area” means that portion of a building site in which the Subsurface Treatment System will be located in accordance with Section 14-633.

9. “Subsurface Sewage Treatment System” or “SSTS” means an individual sewage treatment system or a mid-sized subsurface sewage treatment system as defined by Minn. R. Chs. 7080-7081.

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[§ 14-601, added by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, Paragraph A.7 added by Ord. 96-6 effective Jan. 30, 1997, Paragraph B and B.7 amended, and B.8 added, by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-610. RESTRICTIONS. Except as herein provided by this Article, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any Subsurface Sewage Treatment System, privy, privy vault, septic tank, aerobic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.

[§ 14-610, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-620. RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.

SECTION 14-630. CONFORMANCE WITH STATE AND COUNTY REQUIREMENTS.

A. All Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems installed subsequent to the adoption of this Chapter and all alterations, extensions, and repairs to Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems, irrespective of the date of original installation, shall conform to this Chapter and to the state and county regulations hereinabove adopted.

B. All sewage generated, in unsewered areas shall be treated and dispersed by an SSTS as approved under this Chapter or a system permitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

[§ 14-630, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-631. IMMINENT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY THREAT; FAILING AND ABANDONED SYSTEMS.

A. The owner of any Subsurface Sewage Treatment System that is an Imminent Public Health Threat shall immediately abate the threat according to instructions by the Building Official and bring the SSTS into compliance with this Chapter in accordance with a schedule established by the Building Official, which will not exceed ten (10) months.

B. A failing system or an SSTS that is not protective of groundwater as defined in Minn. R. part 7080-1500, shall be brought into compliance within ten (10) months after receiving notice from the Department.

C. Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems that are no longer in use must be abandoned.

[§ 14-631, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-632. POWER TO ENTER UPON PROPERTY. At the direction of the City Council and with the consent of the owner of property subject to inspection, the Building Official or a designated Inspector may be authorized to enter upon any premises between sunrise and sunset for the purpose of examining any Subsurface Sewage Treatment System, privy vault, privy, cesspool, septic tank or private drain, and shall be permitted access to any and all parts of any dwelling or building within the City necessary for such examination. In the event of an imminent threat to human safety, the Building Official or a designated Inspector may enter upon any premises for the purpose of inspecting and correcting such threat.

[§ 14-632, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-633. SOIL TREATMENT AREA REQUIRED. All Lots shall maintain, at all times, two (2) tested Soil Treatment Areas suitable for Type I systems as defined by Minn. Rules Ch. 7080, in order to provide an alternate site in the event of failure of the primary Subsurface Sewage Treatment System installed in conjunction with a building site.. The Soil Treatment Areas shall be

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clearly identified and protected from all construction traffic. The proposed Subsurface Sewage Treatment System area shall be clearly identified and protected at the time the areas are tested.

The Soil Treatment Areas for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems must contain not less than 12 inches of unsaturated soil, not including any fill material that is placed in the Soil Treatment Area. No accessory structure shall be located within either of the two (2) Soil Treatment Areas identified for septic system treatment. The Soil Treatment Areas may adjoin or be located separate from the Buildable Area required by Section 7A-201.

[§ 14-633, added by Ord. No. 96-6, effective Jan. 30, 1997, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015, as amended by Ord. No. 17-01, effective August 31, 2017.]

SECTION 14-634. VARIANCES. Variances to this Chapter may be granted as follows: A.

The Building Official, in consultation with the Zoning Administrator, shall have the authority to grant administrative variances to the regulations of this Chapter based on the landowner's showing of the following findings:

1. Practical difficulties exist in complying with the requirements of this Article because of circumstances unique to the property, not created by the landowner.
2. The landowner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner.
3. Granting the variance is in harmony with the purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance and consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
4. The variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or City.

B. This provision shall apply only to lots in existence at the time of the adoption of this Section.

C. Any aggrieved person may file an appeal of the decision of the Building Official regarding an administrative variance application following the procedures as outlined in Section 4-104 of the City Code.

D. No variance shall be granted under this section to any criteria identified as a prohibited variation under Minn. R. part 7082.0300, subp. 2.

[§ 14-634 added by Ord. No. 96-6, effective Jan. 30, 1997, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-635. SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS. The following shall apply to the design and construction of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems:

A. General Requirements.

1. Required Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems upgrades shall be constructed prior to the issuance of a building permit.

B. Design Requirements.

1. Subsurface Sewage Treatment System designs shall identify an alternate septic site.
2. A minimum of four (4) soil borings or soil test pits shall be required for each Subsurface Sewage Treatment System.
3. Gravity trenches shall consist of a minimum of four (4) equal trenches.

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4. Pressurized beds may be allowed on slopes greater than 6 percent, provided the cover soils do not exceed 36 inches over the pipe and the required separation is satisfied.
- C. Required Materials.
1. Schedule 40 pipe shall be used from the Structure to the septic tank.
- D. Tank Requirements.
1. Holding tanks are prohibited, unless installed to serve an accessory building with limited sewage flow on residential property. Before approving the installation of a holding tank, the Building Official shall consider the suitability of the location of the holding tank, the availability of other alternatives to installation of the holding tank, and any mitigation of potential environmental effects that the Building Official should deem reasonable given the circumstances. Other than stated in this Section, a holding tank shall not be used to satisfy the sewage requirements for a principal use of the property in any zoning district within the City. The owner of a holding tank must enter into a monitoring and disposal contract as described in Section 14-638(B). The contract must be provided to the City and must guarantee the removal of the tank contents before overflow or any discharged.
 2. The minimum capacity for lift stations shall be 1,000 gallons.
 3. The Subsurface Sewage Treatment System tank capacities shall be as follows:
 - (a) 2 bedrooms or less = 1000 gallon minimum
 - (b) 3 bedrooms - 1250 gallon minimum
 - (c) 4 bedrooms - 1500 gallon minimum
 - (d) 5 and 6 bedrooms - 2000 gallon minimumFor 7 or more bedrooms, Subsurface Sewage Treatment System tank capacities shall be sized in accordance with "Other establishments" as defined by Minn. R. Ch. 7080.
- E. Construction Requirements.
1. An existing or proposed and alternate Soil Treatment Area shall be clearly identified and protected prior to the issuance of a building permit.
 2. Soil Treatment Areas, including alternate areas, located on commercial property shall be permanently protected from all vehicle traffic.
 3. The maximum depth of maintenance holes shall be six (6) inches.
 4. A marker pipe shall be installed for maintenance holes on tanks located below grade.
 5. Inspection pipes shall measure a minimum of four (4) inches in diameter.
 6. Inspection pipes shall be secured so as to prevent removal from the ground.
 7. Design sheets shall be present during on-site inspections.
 8. Wiring shall not be located across any septic or lift station tank.
- F. Set Back Requirements.
1. Septic tanks shall be placed a minimum of 20 feet from any Building exit.
 2. Property line setbacks may be reduced for an SSTS if written consent is obtained from adjacent property owners.
- G. Public Buildings, Churches, and Commercial Buildings.
1. Owners of Public Buildings, Churches, and Commercial buildings with a design flow rate of 2000 gallons per day (gpd) shall be required to have a certified individual on

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staff, as defined by Minn. R. Ch. 7083, or shall have contracted with an MPCA licensed company to maintain and manager on-site Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems. Such contract shall be on file with the City.

H. Floodplains.

1. An SSTS shall not be located in a floodway or floodplain. Location within the flood fringe is permitted provided that the design complies with this ordinance and all of the rules and statutes incorporated by reference.

I. Determination of Hydraulic Loading Rate and SSTS Sizing.

1. The following tables are hereby adopted by reference and shall be used to size SSTS infiltration areas using the larger sizing factor of the two:

(a) Table IX from Minn. R. part 7080.2150, subp. 3(E) entitled *Loading Rates for Determining Bottom Absorption Area f and Absorption Ratios Using Detail Soil Descriptions*; and

(b) Table IXa from Minn. R. part 7080.2150, subp 3(E) entitled *Loading Rates for Determining Bottom Absorption Area and Absorption Ratios Using Percolation Tests*

[§ 14-635, added by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 03-02, effective April 10, 2003, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 12-02, effective April 5, 2012, amended by Ord. No. 12-04, effective June 14, 2012, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-636. SEPTIC REPORTS. A septic report shall be required for accessory buildings and building additions over 240 square feet before a building permit will be issued. The report shall include the following:

A. Identification of an alternate Subsurface Sewage Treatment System site of at least 3,000 square feet and soils suitable for a Standard System as defined by Minn. R. Ch. 7080.

B. The location of all wells on the property.

[§ 14-636, added by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998.]

SECTION 14-637. COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS.

A. A Compliance inspection, as defined by Minn. R. Ch. 7080-7083, shall be required prior to the following:

1. Sale or transfer of ownership of any building;
2. Public or church accessory building or building additions over 240 square feet.
3. When altering an existing structure to add a bedroom.

B. An SSTS found in noncompliance with the requirements of this Chapter shall be either:

1. Brought into compliance; or
2. Have established a Septic Compliance Escrow Account in accord with the provisions of this Section prior to the sale or transfer of ownership, or prior to the construction of a public or church accessory building or building over 240 square feet.

C. An SSTS found in compliance but lacking proper access to the maintenance hole shall have the required risers and inspection pipes installed to conform with the requirements of this Chapter.

D. An SSTS shall be pumped at the time of the Compliance inspection unless the SSTS is found in noncompliance and is required to be repaired or upgraded.

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E. Septic Compliance Escrow Accounts are a temporary alternative to conformance on the date of sale. Establishing a Septic Compliance Escrow Account is not conformance with the provisions of this section; however, it is a defense against enforcement during the duration of the hardship. A Septic Compliance Escrow Account may be established whenever the seller demonstrates, and the City Council finds that:

1. A hardship not created by the buyer or seller makes it impossible or impractical to bring the system into compliance; and

2. The hardship is temporary, so that within six (6) months the hardship will be alleviated and the system will be brought into compliance. Soil frozen to a depth of more than twelve (12) inches is deemed a hardship. Hardship may be found due to impractical cost whenever factors not created by the Seller cause the cost of the compliance repairs to increase to 133% or more of the cost of repairs without the claimed hardship factors. Hardship may also be found due to impossibility when no locally available contractor has the equipment necessary to perform the compliance repairs, provided locally available contractors have the equipment necessary to perform compliance repairs without the hardship.

F. The Septic Compliance Escrow Account will be established and maintained by the buyer and seller. Following the finding of hardship, the buyer and seller will obtain estimates of the cost of compliance repair. The City Building Official will review these estimates. Buyer and seller shall establish a Septic Compliance Escrow Account, naming the City of Columbus as a necessary party for the release of escrow funds. (An example of a suitable agreement is included in Appendix A). Buyer and seller shall then deposit an amount equal to 125% of the estimated compliance repair cost into the escrow account. Upon a showing that the buyer and seller have entered into the required escrow agreement, the City shall approve the sale contingent on the successful completion of compliance repairs and closing of escrow. The contingency may be recorded against the property. Upon completion of compliance repairs, the City shall authorize the release of escrow funds and remove the contingency recorded against the property.

[§ 14-637, added by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998 and amended by Ord. No. 98-12, effective December 31, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-638. CLASS V INJECTION WELLS. All owners of new or replacement SSTS that are considered to be Class V injection wells, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, part 144, are required by the Federal Government to submit SSTS inventory information to the Environmental Protection Agency.

[§ 14-638, added by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-639. OPERATING PERMIT REQUIRED. An operating permit shall be required of all owners of new holding tanks, Type IV and V systems and mid-sized subsurface sewage treatment systems as defined in Minn. R. Ch. 7080.

[§ 14-639, added by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-640. CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REQUIRED. No person shall install, alter, excavate, repair, replace, or extend any SSTS or any component thereof, including, pipes, tanks, drop boxes, distribution boxes, and drain fields, in the City without first obtaining a construction permit therefore from the Building Official for the specific installation, alteration, excavation, repair, or

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extension. No land disturbing activities in furtherance of such construction shall be permitted until a determination has been made by the Zoning Administrator as to the applicability of Chapter 7D to the proposed construction. A construction permit for these purposes shall only be applied for and issued to a licensed Installer. A Construction Permit for an SSTS is separate from a Building Permit issued under Chapter 13 of this City Code. For new construction, the applications for a construction permit, building permit, and zoning permit (Ch. 7A) shall be processed together.

The City Council may refuse to issue a construction permit for cause or upon the recommendation of the Building Official or City Administrator for noncompliance with this Chapter or any rule, statute, or ordinance incorporated herein. The City Council may revoke a permit for cause for any violation of this Chapter or any other provisions of the City Code, or for falsification or misrepresentation of any documents, records or reports submitted to obtain a permit.

[§ 14-640, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 94-5, effective January 12, 1996, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-641. APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION PERMIT. Application for a construction permit shall be made in writing to the Building Official on such forms as he may from time to time designate, and shall include such information as may be required, including but not limited to, the following:

- A. The correct legal description, street address, and PIN (property tax I.D. number) of the property.
- B. A site plan showing the location of any proposed or existing buildings located on the property with respect to the boundary lines of the property, including the location of the required Soil Treatment Areas, complete plans of the proposed SSTS with the substantiating data showing compliance with the minimum standards of this Chapter and with the site evaluation requirements of Minn. R. Ch. 7080-7083, and, if applicable, a Storm Water Management Plan pursuant to Chapter 7D of this City Code. A complete plan shall include the location, size, and design of all parts of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System to be installed, altered, repaired or extended. The site evaluation report shall be signed by a Site Evaluator. The SSTS design shall be signed by a Designer.
- C. The present or proposed location of water supply facilities and water supply piping.
- D. The name, address and telephone number of the Installer who is to install the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System.
- E. A complete copy of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System design.
- F. A copy of the Designer's MPCA License.
- G. A copy of the Installer's MPCA license.
- H. A well certification shall be required for the installation of an Subsurface Sewage Treatment System where an existing well is located within 100 feet of a Soil Treatment Area. The well certification shall be prepared by a licensed well driller and shall indicate the depth, type, and location of the existing well.
- I. Permit applications for new and replacement SSTS shall include a management plan for the owner that includes a schedule for septic tank maintenance.

[§ 14-641, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 94-5, effective January 12, 1996, Paragraph B, amended by Ord. No. 96-6, effective Jan. 30, 1997, amended and Paragraphs E, F, G and I added by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

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SECTION 14-642. CONSTRUCTION AND INVESTIGATION PERMIT FEES.

- A. The construction permit fee for new and replacement Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems shall be determined by the City Council and published in a fee schedule
- B. When an investigation is deemed necessary by the Building Official, an investigation fee shall be charged in an amount not less than the actual cost to the City.
- C. The Construction Permit shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) days from date of issuance, unless issued simultaneously with a building permit for new construction, in which case it shall be valid for the same period as the building permit.

[§ 14-642, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended and paragraph B and C added by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 9, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-643. CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION.

A. General Provisions. The Building Official shall make such inspection as is necessary to determine compliance with this Chapter. No part of an SSTS shall be covered until it has been inspected and accepted by the Building Official. It shall be the responsibility of the Installer to notify the Building Official that the job is ready for inspection or reinspection. Pursuant to the authority granted by Minn. Stat. § 115.04, as amended, whenever it is necessary for the purposes of this Chapter, the Building Official or other authorized Inspector, upon presentation of identifying credentials to the owner or occupant, may enter upon any property, public or private, for the purposes of obtaining information or conducting surveys, investigations or inspections. It shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of the property to give the Building Official or other authorized Inspector, free access to the property at reasonable times for the purpose of making such inspections. As-built documentation, certification, and drawings shall be submitted within five (5) days of completion of any permitted Subsurface Sewage Treatment System. It shall be the Installer's responsibility to install the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System and all components thereof to the specifications of the submitted Subsurface Sewage Treatment design and in compliance with applicable state and local regulations. Upon satisfactory completion and final inspection of the system the Building Official shall indicate approval on the application. If upon inspection the Building Official discovers that any part of an SSTS is not constructed in accordance with the minimum standards provided in this Chapter, he shall give the Installer written notification describing the defects. The Installer shall pay an additional fee of \$15.00 for each reinspection that is necessary. The Installer shall be responsible for the correction or elimination of all defects and no Subsurface Sewage Treatment System shall be placed or replaced in service until all defects have been corrected or eliminated.

B. Inspection Requirements.

1. A contracted SSTS licensed business by an appropriately certified SSTS installer shall be present on-site during the construction and inspection of a Subsurface Sewage Treatment System.
2. An inspection shall take place upon each of the following:
 - (a) Ground scarification for at grades and mound systems;
 - (b) Installation of rock and pipes;
 - (c) Installation of septic tank, manhole covers, risers, and inspection pipes;and

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(d) After the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System is covered and the finish is graded.

3. In the event the required inspection cannot be performed by the City, photographs of the installed Subsurface Sewage Treatment System shall be furnished with the required as-built documentation. This provision shall only apply if permission from the Building Official or Zoning Administrator is obtained at least 48 hours in advance of the installation of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System. The decision to grant permission is within the sole discretion of the Building Official or Zoning Administrator.

[§ 14-643, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, Paragraph A amended and Paragraph B added by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015, as amended by Ord. No. 17-01, effective August 31, 2017.]

SECTION 14-644. BACKFILLING. Backfilling above the cover level of any sewage tank or similar tank, or any building sewer, shall not commence until permission has been granted by the Building Official.

[§ 14-644, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-645. MAINTENANCE INSPECTION AND PUMPING.

A. Triennial Pumping. Each Subsurface Sewage Treatment System shall be pumped every three years at a minimum. A report of the pumping shall be filed with the City.

B. Minimum Maintenance Standards. In the event the following minimum standards are verified by a licensed MPCA Septic Inspector and such verification is filed with the City, no pumping report shall be required. The maintenance inspections shall determine that the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System meets the minimum standards and an SSTS failing any of these standards shall be pumped, repaired, maintained, reconstructed, or relocated, as determined by the Building Official. The minimum standards are as follows:

1. Sludge in the septic tank must be more than twelve (12) inches below the bottom of the outlet baffle.
2. Scum in the septic tank or compartment cannot be more than three (3) inches above the bottom of the outlet baffle.
3. The drain fields or other Subsurface Sewage Treatment System components must show no evidence of effluent percolating to the surface;
4. For an Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems located near a lake, stream or wetland, the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System must show no evidence of effluent being discharged into the adjacent waters, as determined by a dye test;
5. Interior plumbing fixtures must adequately drain.

C. Owner Responsibility.

1. The Owner of each Lot upon which the improvements are served by an Subsurface Sewage Treatment System is responsible for the lawful operation and maintenance of each on-site system. "Owner," as used herein, shall mean the fee owner(s) and, if applicable, the contract-for-deed purchaser. Ownership interests shall be determined by reference to the records of the Anoka County Recorder/Registrar of Titles.

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2. The owner of each Lot is responsible for having the inspection or pumping of his/her Subsurface Sewage Treatment System completed and for submitting a written inspection or pumping report to the City. The owner shall hire an Inspector or Maintainer to conduct the inspection or pumping and to complete the required report. The Maintainer shall file a complete inspection or pumping report with the Zoning Administrator within thirty (30) working days following the actual date upon which the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System was cleaned or pumped. The required reports shall, at a minimum, certify that the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System meets the standards of this Section. The reports shall be signed by the owner and the Inspector. All parties signing the reports shall attest to the following statement:

“Under penalties of law, I declare that I have examined this Report and all of its attached pages and drawings, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, accurate, and complete.”

3. It shall be the owner’s responsibility to ensure that additives are not introduced into the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System.

D. Inspection by City. If the owner of a Lot fails to file the required reports, every three (3) years, or files incomplete reports, the Zoning Administrator shall, by certified mail, notify the owner that a complete report shall be filed with the City within thirty (30) days from the date of the notice. In the event the owner fails to file a complete report with the City within the thirty (30) day period, the Building Inspector or other qualified Inspector shall inspect the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System and file the report on behalf of the owner. The City’s costs of such inspection shall be reimbursed to the City within thirty (30) days of the date upon which an invoice is mailed to the owner.

[§ 14-645, added by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-646. PUMPING PERMITS AND FEES. A permit shall be obtained for each pumping job. An application for the permit shall be submitted to the City Administrator by the Maintainer. The application for any pumping permit shall be on a form approved by the City Administrator and shall include sufficient information to identify and locate the Maintainer dumping facility, and to identify the Maintainer and approved pumping vehicle. The fee for a permit shall be determined by the City Council and published in a fee schedule. The City Council may refuse to issue a pumping permit for cause or upon the recommendation of the Building Official or City Administrator. The City Council may revoke a permit for cause, for any violation of this Chapter or any other provisions of the City Code or for falsification or misrepresentation of any documents, records or reports submitted to obtain a permit.

A. Routine Pumping. A “routine pumping” permit is issued for a pumping which occurs twelve (12) months or more after the previous cleaning. The permit fee for a routine pumping shall be determined by the City Council and published in a fee schedule.

B. Frequent Pumping. The application for a third pumping permit within a twelve (12) months period is indicative of a failing Subsurface Sewage Treatment System and requires an inspection of the system (see § 14-647).

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C. Emergency Pumping. An “emergency pumping” is defined as a pumping (1) which is required because of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System’s failure to meet the minimum standards of Section 14-645, especially failure of plumbing fixtures to drain properly or effluent backing up from the system, and (2) which occurs or is necessitated during hours or days when the City Administrator is not available at the City Hall to issue a pumping permit. The Maintainer shall obtain a pumping permit within five (5) working days following the date of the emergency cleaning or pumping.

[§ 14-646, added by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-647. ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS. The issuance of three (3) or more pumping permits (see Section 14-646) within a twelve (12) month period for the same Subsurface Sewage Treatment System shall be considered strong evidence by the City that the system is approaching failure or is inadequately designed. Upon the issuance of a third pumping permit within a twelve (12) month period, the Building Official shall review the inspection and pumping reports and then, at his discretion, inspect the entire Subsurface Sewage Treatment System to determine that it is in compliance with the minimum standards of Section 14-645. A failed Subsurface Sewage Treatment System shall be cleaned, repaired, maintained, reconstructed, or relocated, as determined by the Building Official.

[§ 14-646, added by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, changed to 14-647 and amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-648. RECORDS. The Building Official shall coordinate a record keeping systems so that a separate city file is maintained for each SSTS. The record for each SSTS shall, at a minimum, include:

- A. Property address, legal description and PIN (county auditor’s property identification number);
- B. Property site plan showing buildings, wells, Individual Sewage Treatment System components, drain field, lakes, streams, wetlands, and surface drainage patterns;
- C. Site evaluation data and analysis of soils (by percolation tests and soil borings), detailing water table depth, mottled soil depth, types of soils, depth of “hardpan,” and other soils data;
- D. Construction Permit history;
- E. Cleaning and pumping permit history; and,
- F. Inspection history.

[§ 14-647, added by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, changed to 14-648 and amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-649. LICENSING. All design, construction, installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, cleaning, pumping or inspections activity for an Subsurface Sewage Treatment System shall be completed by an appropriately licensed businesses or certified qualified employee, or a person exempted from licensing under Minn. R. 7083.0700, subp. 1.. A copy of the license shall be filed with the City prior to the commencement of the Subsurface Sewage Treatment System design, construction, installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, operation, cleaning, pumping, or inspection.

[§ 14-650, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, changed to 14-649 and amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

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SECTION 14-650. EMPTYING SEPTIC TANKS. No Maintainer or other person shall empty or remove the contents of any vault, privy, cesspool, septic tank or drain, otherwise than in a container made tight and closely covered and at such hours or times of the day or night as the health officer or Building Official may direct.

[§ 14-653, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990.]

[§ 14-653 changed to 14-650 and amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-651. STORAGE DISTANCE FROM BUILDINGS. No Maintainer or other person shall place, keep, or store, when not in actual use, any equipment associated with a pumping business, including pumping box, cask, cart, tank, vessel, container, vehicle, or tools, used in pumping services, within 300 feet of any private residence, school building, church building, public grounds, or commercial building, unless stored in a Garage or Accessory Building. The temporary storage of septage or holding tank waste shall require a permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

[§ 14-654, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990.]

[§ 14-654 changed to 14-651 by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-652. DISPOSAL OF CONTENTS. Within the jurisdictional limits of the City, no Maintainer or other person shall dispose of the contents of any vault, privy, cesspool, septic tank, or other private drain in any place without first notifying the Building Official, in writing, of the place where it is proposed to make such disposal and obtaining a permit therefore.

[§ 14-655, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, changed to 14-652 and amended by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

SECTION 14-653. SURFACE DISCHARGE. Surface discharge of sewage is prohibited without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.*[§ 14-653, added by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]*

SECTION 14-654. VIOLATIONS. Any violation of, or neglect to comply with, the provisions of this Chapter on the part of any person, or any neglect or refusal of any owner or occupant of any premises to permit his premises to be examined as herein provided, and the same to be cleaned, repaired, reconstructed, or abandoned shall be a violation of this Code and shall be found guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1, Section 1-109 of this City Code.

[CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE VI, § 14-660, amended by Ord. No. 86-3, effective February 21, 1986, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 92-2, effective April 17, 1992, changed to 14-654 by Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-655. CONFLICT RESOLUTION. For SSTS systems regulated under this ordinance, conflicts and other technical disputes over new construction, replacement, and existing systems will be managed in accordance with the procedure as defined in City Code Section 4-104, which governs appeals to the City Council. If a documented discrepancy arises on the depth of the periodically saturated soil between and SSTS licensed business and the City of Columbus for SSTS design or compliance purposes, the procedure outlined in Minn. R. 7082.0700, subp. 5(B) shall be followed.

[§ 14-655 added by Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.]

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**ARTICLE VII
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

SECTION 14-700. ADOPTION OF COUNTY ORDINANCE. The Anoka County, Minnesota, Solid Waste Ordinance, adopted by Anoka County Board Action on January 2, 1973, is hereby adopted by the City of Columbus and is incorporated in the City Code of Ordinances as completely as if set out in full. A copy of the Ordinance is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

[§ 14-700, amended by Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-750. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL. All solid waste in the City of Columbus shall, except where superseded by the provisions of § 14-700, be disposed of in the manner provided for in Article VII of Chapter 14 of this City Code.

[§ 14-750 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-751. DEFINITIONS.

A. For the purpose of these regulations, certain terms, words and phrases used herein shall be used, interpreted and defined as set forth below.

B. Whenever any words or phrases used herein are not defined herein, but are defined in the State laws or county ordinances regulating disposal of solid waste, any such definition therein shall be deemed to apply to such words and phrases used herein, except when the context otherwise requires.

C. For the purposes of these regulations, the words, terms and phrases used herein shall be interpreted as follows:

1. **“Compost”** - means any organic matter such as leaves, grass clippings, straw, lake weeds, vegetation, vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, and other biodegradable matter which under proper conditions will be converted to a soil like substance used for fertilizer and as a soil conditioner.

2. **“Garbage”** - means any organic waste resulting from the preparation of food, and decayed and spoiled food from any source.

3. **“Recyclables” or “recyclable material”** - means all paper, plastic, tin cans, aluminum, ferrous metals, motor oil, glass, and other metals, each separated and cleaned or otherwise prepared so as to be acceptable for recycling.

4. **“Refuse”** - means all garbage, rubbish, and all discarded matter or materials.

5. **“Rubbish”** - means all inorganic, solid waste such as ashes, sweepings, and other non-reusable waste.

SECTION 14-752. RECYCLING. In order to help the City meet its goal of reducing its production of solid waste which must be placed in a county solid waste landfill, every citizen, every household, every occupant or owner of any residential dwelling, and every owner or occupant of any commercial or industrial establishment is encouraged to recycle all of the recyclable materials which are currently being discarded as solid waste. The city has a program in place to provide every household with a standardized recycling container.

[§ 14-752 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

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SECTION 14-753. COMPOSTING. In order to help the City meet its goal of reducing its production of solid waste which must be placed in a county solid waste landfill, every citizen, every household, every occupant or owner of any residential dwelling, and every owner or occupant of any commercial or industrial establishment is encouraged to compost all of the compostable materials produced on site. Composting should be done in a manner which is generally recognized to be sanitary, environmentally effective, and useful for the property owner. A well-recognized guideline in Minnesota for composting is produced by the University of Minnesota Extension Service (Department of Soil Science), entitled "Composting and Mulching: A Guide to Managing Organic Yard Wastes," (Publication No. AG-FO-3296, revised 1988).

[§ 14-753 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-754. BURIAL OR ACCUMULATION OF CERTAIN SOLID WASTES PROHIBITED. No person shall bury any refuse, recyclables, garbage or rubbish within the City unless the site has been approved and licensed as a solid waste landfill or solid waste disposal site by Anoka County.

[§ 14-750 through § 14-754, added to Ch. 14 of the Town Code by Ord. No. 90-2, effective March 23, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

ARTICLE VIII
REGULATION OF REFUSE COLLECTORS

SECTION 14-800. DEFINITIONS. The definitions contained in § 14-751 apply to this Article VIII.

SECTION 14-801. LICENSE REQUIRED. No person shall engage in the business of collecting refuse within the City of Columbus without a license as required herein. No person shall permit refuse to be collected from his premises by an unlicensed collector. Collection of demolition debris or construction waste in a roll off container is exempt from the licensing requirements of this Article. However, collectors of demolition waste and construction waste shall have a current policy of public liability insurance and shall provide proof of same to the City Clerk or Deputy Clerk upon request.

[§ 14-801 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009.]

SECTION 14-802. ADMINISTRATION. The general provisions of Chapter 4, Article I, of this City Code shall apply to the administration of licenses issued to refuse collectors.

[§ 14-802 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-803. LICENSE APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS. Any person, firm or corporation desiring a license to collect refuse shall make application for the same to the Deputy Clerk. The application shall set forth:

- A. The name and address of the applicant;
- B. A list of equipment proposed to be used in the collection;
- C. A description of the kind of services proposed to be rendered and the frequency of the collections;
- D. A place to which the refuse is to be hauled;
- E. The manner in which the refuse is to be hauled;

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- F. A description of each type of container that will be used to receive and contain refuse that may accumulate between collections; and
- G. A description of the equipment to be used in picking up recyclable materials.

SECTION 14-804. CONDITIONS OF LICENSE. The following shall be conditions of all licenses issued to refuse collectors and haulers in the City of Columbus:

- A. Insurance. No license shall be issued until the applicant files with the City Clerk a current policy of public liability insurance covering vehicles to be used by the applicant in the licensed business. Such insurance shall be in the minimum amount of \$100,000.00 for each person and \$300,000.00 for each accident. "City of Columbus, Anoka County, Minnesota" shall be named as an additional insured party upon the certificate of insurance delivered to the City Clerk.
- B. General License Bond. No license shall be issued until the applicant files a general license bond in the amount of \$500.00, assuring the City that the licensee shall abide by the terms of this ordinance.
- C. License Fee. The annual license fee shall be \$125.00. The fee shall be paid upon application and on January 1 of each year thereafter.
- D. The refuse collector's license shall be valid only as long as the licensee maintains an active, regular, and properly managed program for the collection of recyclable materials. The licensee shall provide written reports to the City Clerk every three (3) months to indicate the quantities of recyclable materials collected and the disposition of the recyclable materials. Each licensee shall make its recyclable collection available to all residential dwellings within the city whether or not the owner or occupant of that residential dwelling utilizes the licensee's services for collection of other refuse. The licensee may charge a reasonable fee for the collection of recyclable materials.

[§ 14-800 through § 14-804, added to Article VIII of Ch. 14 of the Town Code by Ord. No. 90-2, effective March 23, 1990, amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009, as amended by Ord. No. 17-01, effective August 31, 2017.]

ARTICLE IX.

REGULATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND PETROLEUM CONTAMINATED SOILS.

SECTION 14-900. TITLE. This Article may be cited as the "City of Columbus Regulations for Hazardous Substances and Petroleum Contaminated Soils."

[§ 14-900 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-901. FINDINGS. In adopting these regulations, the City Council finds:

- A. Federal and state law allows for disposal and remediation of certain contaminated substances by aeration and bioremediation.
- B. All homes, schools, churches and businesses in the City of Columbus obtain drinking water from on-site fresh water wells.

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C. Two of the watersheds covering the City are on the upstream side of the metropolitan fresh water supply. Surface waters and groundwaters from these two watersheds flow to the Mississippi River at points above the intakes for metropolitan fresh water supply systems.

D. Prohibiting bioremediation in the City will not prevent petroleum contaminated soils from being treated through bioremediation in other less environmentally sensitive areas of the state. Additionally, thermal remediation of petroleum contaminated soils is readily available at a number of metropolitan facilities.

E. Soils, extensive wetlands, unique wildlife areas, water tables, ground water systems, surface water drainage patterns, and proximity of fresh water wells to proposed aeration and bioremediation sites make most of the City of Columbus unsuitable for aeration and bioremediation techniques.

F. Although the legislature has made seemingly favorable findings regarding bioremediation of petroleum contaminated soils, no evidence has been provided to the City that refutes the possibility of residual or long-term effects from bioremediation in environmentally sensitive areas such as the City of Columbus. No evidence has been provided to the City that refutes the possibility of residual or long-term effects from bioremediation in the property being utilized for bioremediation or in adjacent lands.

G. Until the City receives compelling evidence derived from competent, long-range scientific studies that such techniques will have no adverse impacts on the city's lands and waters, aeration and bioremediation of petroleum contaminated soils should be prohibited in the city.

[§ 14-901 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-902. PURPOSE. This article regulates the depositing, distribution and placement of hazardous substances and petroleum contaminated soils in the City of Columbus. These City requirements are in addition to all applicable federal, state and county regulations.

[§ 14-902 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-903. DEFINITIONS. All definitions shall be determined by reference to Minnesota Statutes, Minnesota agency regulations adopted pursuant to statutes, to the meanings given in this Section, to this City Code, and, otherwise, words and phrases shall have the meaning customarily assigned to them as a matter of general usage.

A. **“Hazardous Substances”** shall include within its definition those substances described in City Code Section 8-503 and any other substances which are included in definitions contained in federal or state law.

B. **“Petroleum Contaminated Soils”** shall have the meaning given to it by state law.

C. **“Bioremediation”** shall have the meaning given to it by state law.

[§ 14-903 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-904. HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES. Transportation of Hazardous Substances into the City of Columbus for treatment or processing or storage is hereby prohibited. Treatment, processing, or storage of Hazardous Substances generated or created within the City of Columbus shall be in accordance with federal and state law.

[§ 14-904 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

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SECTION 14-905. PETROLEUM CONTAMINATED SOILS. Transportation of Petroleum Contaminated Soils into the City of Columbus for treatment, processing, bioremediation, or storage is hereby prohibited. Aeration and bioremediation of petroleum contaminated soils within the City of Columbus are hereby prohibited. All zones within the city, as defined in Chapter 7A, are within the scope of these prohibitions.

[§ 14-905 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

SECTION 14-906. VIOLATIONS AND REMEDIES.

A. Violation is a Misdemeanor. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1, Section 1-109 of this City Code.

B. Other Laws Not Infringed. The penalty provisions of Section 14-906 shall not be deemed to supersede or infringe upon the authority of other governmental agencies to prosecute for violations of federal or state laws.

C. Civil Remedies for the City. In addition to civil remedies available to the City for injunction or abatement, the City Council, after notice and hearing on a violation of this Chapter, may elect to take a draft under any letter of credit posted for a Conditional Use Permit to abate the violation

[§ 14-906 amended by Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.]

ARTICLE X

CLANDESTINE DRUG LAB AND CHEMICAL DUMP SITES

SECTION 14-1000. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

A. Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this Ordinance is to reduce public exposure to health risks where law enforcement officers have determined that hazardous chemicals from a suspected clandestine drug lab site or associated dumpsite may exist. The City Council finds that such sites may contain chemicals and residues that place people, particularly children or adults of child bearing age, at risk when exposed through inhabiting or visiting the site, at the time the hazardous substances are discovered by law enforcement officers and in the future.

Based upon professional reports, assessments, testing, investigations and presentations, the City Council finds that such hazardous chemicals can condense, penetrate, and contaminate the land, surfaces, furnishings, buildings, and equipment in or near structures or other locations where such sites exist. The City Council finds that these conditions present health and safety risks to residents, occupants, and visitors through fire, explosion, skin and respiratory exposure and related dangers. The City Council further finds that such sites present health and safety risks to residences, buildings, and structures and to the general housing stock of the community.

B. Interpretation and Application. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be construed to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Where conditions imposed by any provision of this Ordinance are either more or less restrictive than comparable provision imposed by any other law, ordinance, statute, or regulation of any kind, the regulations which are more restrictive or which impose higher standards or requirements shall prevail.

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Should any court of competent jurisdiction declare any section or subpart of this Ordinance to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the provision declared invalid.

C. Fees. Fees for the administration of this Ordinance may be established and amended from time to time by further ordinance of the City Council.

D. Definitions. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms or words shall be interpreted as follows:

- (1) "Child" shall mean any person less than 18 years of age;
- (2) "Chemical Dumpsite" shall mean any place or area where chemicals or other Hazardous Waste materials used in a Clandestine Drug Lab have been located;
- (3) "Clandestine Drug Lab" shall mean the unlawful manufacture or attempt to manufacture controlled substances;
- (4) "Clandestine Drug Lab Site" shall mean any place or area where law enforcement has determined that conditions associated with the operations of a Clandestine Drug Lab exist. A Clandestine Drug Lab Site may include motor vehicles and trailers, dwellings, accessory buildings, accessory structures, commercial structures, multi-family structures or any land;
- (5) "Controlled Substance" shall mean a drug, substance or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V of Minn. Stat. Section 152.02. Controlled Substance shall not include distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages, intoxicating liquors or tobacco;
- (6) "Hazardous Waste" shall mean waste generated from a Clandestine Drug Lab;
- (7) "Manufacture" shall mean and include, in places other than a licensed pharmacy, the production, cultivation quality control, and standardization, by mechanical, physical, chemical or pharmaceutical means, packing, repacking, tableting, encapsulating, labeling, relabeling, filling, or by other process, of controlled substances;
- (8) "Owner" shall mean any person, firm or corporation who owns, in whole or in part, the land, buildings or structures in or on which there is found a Clandestine Drug Lab. Owner shall not mean any person, firm, or corporation holding solely a security interest in any such land, buildings, or structures.
- (9) "Public Health Nuisance" shall mean all dwellings, accessory structures and buildings or adjacent property associated with a clandestine drug lab site are potentially unsafe due to health hazards and are considered a public health nuisance.

[§ 14-1000 added by Ord. No. 08-07, effective September 4, 2008.]

SECTION 14-1001. ADMINISTRATION

A. Notice to Authorities. Law enforcement officers and authorities that identify conditions associated with a Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dump Site that places neighbors, visiting public, or present or future occupants of the dwelling, structure, or land at risk for exposure to Hazardous Wastes must promptly notify the appropriate municipal, child protection, and public health authorities of the location, Owner, and conditions found.

B. Declaration of Property as Public Nuisance. All dwellings, accessory structures, buildings and land associated with a Clandestine Drug Lab Site are potentially unsafe due to health hazards. If law enforcement officers or authorities determined the positive existence of a Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dumpsite, the property shall be declared a Public Health Nuisance.

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Any and all Hazardous Wastes found at a Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dumpsite shall be treated, stored, transported or disposed of in a manner consistent with the rules and regulations of the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control, and the Anoka County Department of Health.

C. Notice of Public Health Nuisance to Concerned Parties. Upon notification by law enforcement officers or authorities, the City Building Official shall issue a Declaration of Public Health Nuisance (the "Declaration") for the affected property and post a copy of the Declaration at the entrance to any dwelling, building, or structure on the property. The City Building Official shall also notify the Owner of the Property by mailing a copy of the Declaration thereto, and notify by mail the following persons:

- (1) Known occupants of the property;
- (2) Neighbors of the property at potential risk;
- (3) The Anoka County Sheriff's Office;
- (4) Other state and local authorities, including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Health, which are known to have public and environmental protection responsibilities applicable to the situation at the property;
- (5) The Building Official may cause a certified copy of the Declaration to be filed of record with the Office of the Anoka County Recorder or Registrar of Titles. Upon abatement of the Public Nuisance as required herein, the Building Official shall cause a notice of successful abatement or removal of the Declaration to be filed of record with the Office of the Anoka County Recorder or Registrar of Titles.

D. Order for Abatement. Within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of the Declaration, the Building Official shall issue an order to the Owner to abate the Public Health Nuisance (the "Order for Abatement"), to be sent by U.S. mail, including the following:

- (1) That the Owners, any tenant, occupant or other persons in possession of the property shall immediately vacate those portions of the property, including building and structure interiors or Chemical Dump Site, which may place such persons at risk. No person shall occupy any premises or property subject to an order for abatement until such time as the Building Official determines the property is safe for human occupancy.
- (2) That the Owners, any tenant, occupant or other persons in possession of the property shall promptly contract with appropriate environmental testing and cleaning firms to conduct an on-site assessment, complete clean-up and remediation testing and follow-up testing, to determine that the property risks are sufficiently reduced to allow human occupancy of the property. The property owner shall notify the City of actions taken and reach an agreement with the City on an abatement schedule. In determining the abatement schedule, the City shall consider practical limitations and the availability of contractors.
- (3) That the Owners, any tenant, occupant, or other persons in possession of the property shall provide written documentation of the abatement process, including a signed, written statement that the property is safe for human occupancy and that the abatement was conducted in accordance with Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.

E. Costs of Abatement. The Owners shall be responsible for all costs of abatement and clean-up of any Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dumpsite, as well as any other affected

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property, including contractor's fees and Public Costs for services that were performed in association with a Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dump Site abatement. The Building Official shall prepare and provide to the Owners a statement of itemized Public Costs which shall be due and payable upon receipt. Public Costs may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Posting of the Declaration;
- (2) Notification;
- (3) Expenses related to the recovery of costs, including the assessment process;
- (4) Laboratory fees;
- (5) Clean-up and abatement services, including septic systems;
- (6) Administrative fees;
- (7) Emergency response costs; and
- (8) Any legal costs or fees including attorneys' fees, related to the nuisance abatement.

F. Recovery of Public Costs. The City Building Official is authorized to initiate on-site assessment, abatement and necessary clean up at a property affected by a Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dump Site as follows:

- (1) If fifteen (15) days after notification of the Declaration and Order for Abatement, the Owner has failed to arrange any abatement or clean-up of the Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dumpsite, or arrange an appropriate abatement schedule with the City;
- (2) If the City is unable to locate the Owner within fifteen (15) days of the Declaration; or
- (3) Upon initiation of abatement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 463.

If the City abates the Public Health Nuisance, or otherwise incurs Public Costs, the City shall be entitled to recover all Public Costs in addition to any other legal remedy. The City may recover the Public Costs by civil litigation against the Owners or by assessing the Public Costs as a special tax against the property in the manner as taxes and special assessments are certified and collected pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 429.101. Nothing herein shall limit the authority of the City to enforce this Ordinance or seek any other legal remedy to abate the Public Health Nuisance through declaratory action, injunction, nuisance declaration or otherwise.

G. Authority to Modify or Remove Declaration. The City Building Official is authorized to modify the Declaration conditions or remove the Declaration. Such modifications or removal of the Declaration shall only occur after documentation from a qualified environmental or cleaning firm stating that the health and safety risks, including those to neighbors and potential dwelling occupants, are sufficiently abated or corrected to allow safe occupancy of the Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dumpsite.

[§ 14-1001 added by Ord. No. 08-07, effective September 4, 2008, amended by Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009.]

SECTION 14-1002. APPEAL PROCEDURE. The Owner or any party with a legal interest in the property affected by a Declaration, order for abatement, or a statement of Public Costs, may appeal the Declaration, the order for abatement or the statement of Public Costs to the City Council. The appeal shall be in writing filed with the City Clerk, specifying the grounds for the appeal and the relief requested. The appeal must be filed within ten (10) days of the issuance of the item from which the appeal is taken. The City Council shall hear the appeal at the next City Council meeting after the appeal is filed. Upon review, the City Council may affirm, reverse, or modify the action taken. The filing of an

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appeal shall suspend the terms of the Declaration, order for abatement or statement of Public Costs, whichever is applicable. However, in the instance of an appeal from an order for abatement, the appeal shall not suspend that part of the order prohibiting occupancy of the property affected by a Clandestine Drug Lab Site or Chemical Dumpsite.

[§ 14-1002 added by Ord. No. 08-07, effective September 4, 2008.]

SECTION 14-1003. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. Any person violating any provisions of this Ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Minn. Stat. Section 609.02, subd. 3.

[§ 14-1003 added by Ord. No. 08-07, effective September 4, 2008.]



CHAPTER 14, added to the Town Code by Ord. No. 82-2, effective June 11, 1982.

History of ordinances affecting the text of Chapter 14 (since adoption of Ord. No. 82-2):

Ord. No. 86-3, effective February 21, 1986.

Ord. No. 86-4, effective June 27, 1986.

Ord. No. 89-14, effective July 13, 1990.

Ord. No. 89-17, effective December 8, 1989.

Ord. No. 90-2, effective March 23, 1990.

Ord. No. 92-2, effective April 17, 1992.

Ord. No. 93-6, effective March 11, 1994.

Ord. No. 94-5, effective January 12, 1996.

Ord. No. 96-6, effective January 30, 1997.

Ord. No. 98-5, effective July 30, 1998.

Ord. No. 98-12, effective December 31, 1998.

Ord. No. 03-02; effective April 10, 2003.

Ord. No. 06-01; effective March 2, 2006.

Ord. No. 07-02, effective March 1, 2007.

Ord. No. 08-07, effective September 4, 2008.

Ord. No. 09-02, effective March 5, 2009.

Ord. No. 09-04, effective March 19, 2009.

Ord. No. 12-02, effective April 5, 2012.

Ord. No. 12-04, effective June 14, 2012.

Ord. No. 12-06, effective July 12, 2012.

Ord. No. 13-04, effective November 7, 2013.

Ord. No. 14-03, effective May 1, 2014.

Ord. No. 15-01, effective May 7, 2015.

Ord. No. 17-01, effective August 31, 2017.

This Chapter has been updated through the date of the latest ordinance listed above.
