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CHAPTER SEVEN

WATER AND SEWER

ARTICLE 1 - Utility Established

7.0101 Water and Sewer Department Established

There is hereby established and created within the City a department to be known as the City Water and Sewer Department. The department shall have general charge of all plants, systems, works, instrumentalities, equipment, materials, supplies, sewage disposal plants, lagoons, intercepting sewer, trunk connections, sewer and water mains, filtration works, pumping stations and all parts and appurtenances of the foregoing which are used or useful in connection with the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage, waste and storm sewers for the inhabitants of this City, subject to all ordinances, rules and regulations.

7.0102 City Water and Sewer Department to be Independent Agency

All of the business affairs of the City Water and Sewer Department shall be conducted, insofar as is possible within the ordinances of the City, as a completely separate and distinct division of the City. Separate and distinct accounts shall be set up on the books of the city auditor. These accounts shall at all times reflect the true condition of the Water and Sewer Department, as distinct from the remaining business of the City and shall be so devised as to disclose the annual profit or loss of the department. The funds of the department shall be held in the custody of the city auditor and disbursed upon warrant in the same manner as other funds, but the Water and Sewer Department shall be given credit upon the books of the City for any and all funds paid by it into the City treasury and shall be charged on the books of the City with all payments made by the City on its behalf. Transfers from the Water and Sewer Department to the General Fund or any other fund of the City shall not be made except upon order of the governing body nor shall transfer be made from City funds to the Water and Sewer Department without like order. (Source: North Dakota Century Code section 40-33-12)

Where bonds have now been, or may hereafter be issued against any water works improvement or sewage improvement, which constitute a general obligation of the City, the taxes levied for the payment of such bonds and interest shall be levied and expended for such purpose in the manner provided by law, until such time as it may be possible out of the proceeds of the Water and Sewer Department, after setting up a reasonable reserve for depreciation and new construction, to make payment of the bond requirements from the profits of the Water and Sewer Department. It is expressly declared to be the purpose of this ordinance that as soon as the same can be accomplished without undue burden to the water users of this City, the Water and Sewer Department shall be placed upon an entirely independent basis as a separate business enterprise.

7.0103 Scope of Utility

The properties of the City Water and Sewer Department and all future improvements, extensions and enlargements thereof, together with all cash and other assets held in the City's

Water and Sewer Utility Fund and all moneys to be derived thereafter from the services, facilities, products and by-products of said utility, shall be and are hereby appropriated and dedicated to the purpose of ensuring the public health, safety and welfare by furnishing and making available water and sewerage service to the City and its inhabitants and industries. Said utility shall at all times be under the management and control of the governing body of the City and shall by it be operated and maintained in such manner as to provide its service with maximum efficiency and at the minimum cost which is compatible with the plan of operation herein described.

7.0104 Service Charges - Use of

The City Water and Sewer Department shall at all times be so operated and maintained, and rates and charges for its services, facilities, products and by-products shall be such, as to make the utility self-supporting and self-perpetuating. Such charges from time to time imposed and collected shall be made and kept adequate to pay as incurred all costs of operation and maintenance of said utility and to establish and maintain reasonable operating reserves; to produce net revenues which shall be sufficient at all times to pay promptly the principal and interest due on all obligations of the City incurred for the improvement, extension and enlargement of said utility, to the extent that such obligations are according to their terms payable from said net revenues, and to establish and maintain adequate reserves for the security of said obligations. Charges may be set to produce surplus net revenues, over and above current principal, interest and reserve requirements, in amounts sufficient to provide reasonable allowances for depreciation and replacement of the utility plus a reasonable return on the City's capital investment therein which surplus net revenues, when actually on hand, and to the extent that they are not required as a reserve for depreciation and replacement, may from time to time be appropriated by the governing board to pay or contribute to the cost of any other City functions, subject to the limitations now or hereafter prescribed by law.

The foregoing appropriations shall not, however, be deemed or construed to preclude the City from defraying any part or all of the expense of any improvement, enlargement or extension of the water and sewer utility by the levy of special assessments or taxes or the issuance of general obligation bonds, whenever and to the extent that such action is authorized in the manner provided by law and is deemed fair and equitable by the governing body.

7.0105 Policy on Improvements - Extensions

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the City, subject to such modifications as shall be deemed by the governing body to be required by special circumstances in individual cases, and subject to such modifications as may hereafter be made by ordinance amendatory hereof or supplemental hereto, that the cost of capital improvements, enlargements and extensions of said utility shall be paid in the following manner:

1. Where water mains not exceeding six inches or sanitary sewer mains not exceeding eight inches in diameter are installed adjacent to residential properties, and where water mains not exceeding eight inches or sewer mains not exceeding ten inches in diameter are installed adjacent to commercial properties, the total cost thereof shall be assessed against the properties abutting on such improvements, in sums

proportionate to and not exceeding the total benefits determined to be derived therefrom by the respective properties. Water and sewer mains of the dimensions above described are referred to herein as “lateral” mains and other mains are referred to as “trunk” mains.

2. Where a trunk main is installed, the governing body upon advice of the city engineer shall estimate the probable cost of construction of a lateral main at the same time and place and such estimated cost shall be assessed against the properties abutting on such main and in the manner above provided.
3. Twenty percent (20%) of the cost of any sanitary sewer in excess of the estimated cost of a lateral sewer at the same time and place shall be assessed against all properties determined by the governing body to require the immediate construction of such main as a trunk sewer, including properties abutting thereon and properties served or capable of being served by lateral sewers connected thereto, in amounts proportionate to and not exceeding the benefits determined to be derived by said respective properties from such trunk sewer.
4. The total cost of storm sewers shall be assessed against properties within the area determined to be benefited thereby, in amounts proportionate to and not exceeding the benefits determined to be derived therefrom by the respective properties.
5. Where a portion of the benefits of any of the foregoing improvements is deemed to accrue primarily to the City at large, a portion not exceeding twenty percent (20%) of the cost thereof, as determined by the governing body, may be paid by the levy of ad valorem taxes upon all property within the City over the same period as the levies of assessments for such improvements, or any portion or all of such cost may be paid out of current funds duly provided in the budget, or from the proceeds of general obligation bonds duly authorized by the electors.
6. Such portion of the cost of any improvement, extension or addition to the utility as is not paid by special assessments and taxes levied and actually collected in respect thereof shall be paid from the net revenues of the utility.
7. Where due to any error or omissions or to any special circumstances a special assessment is not levied against any property benefited by an improvement at the time of the construction thereof in accordance with the program described in this section, the City reserves the right to levy a supplemental special assessment upon such property or to impose and collect a special charge for the connection of such property with the utility system in such amount as shall be required to pay its just share of the assessable cost of such improvement.

7.0106 Utility Fund - Separate Accounts

All moneys received by the City in respect of the services, facilities, products and by-products furnished and made available by the City Water and Sewer Department, except

collections of special assessments and taxes appropriated to improvement district funds and moneys borrowed for capital improvements, and all money, receipt and returns received from any investments of such earnings, shall be paid into the treasure of the City and kept in a special fund which shall be permanently maintained on the books of the City, separate and distinct from other funds, and designated as the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund.

ARTICLE 2 - Water Service

7.0201 Water System

All land, buildings, machinery, equipment, tools and apparatus, water mains, hydrants, service connections and all other property used for the purpose of furnishing a water supply to this City, and the inhabitants thereof, now owned or to be owned by this City, whether acquired by the issue of general obligation bonds, special assessment warrants or other obligations of this City, shall constitute and be known as the waterworks system.

7.0202 Director of Public Works

A director of public works shall be appointed by the governing board. If the director of public works is a part-time employee and is also a City employee in some other capacity, only those services respecting the utility shall be an operating charge of the system. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to exercise control and management of the operation of the utility system. The superintendent shall have power and authority to employ, subject to the approval of the governing body, all such engineers, filter plant operators, meter readers, laborers and other employees, as may be necessary to the operation of the utility system. All such employees shall be subject to the orders and directions of the director of public works, and the director of public works shall be responsible for their acts. The director of public works shall have power and authority to purchase such materials, supplies and repairs for the water-sewer system, with the approval of the governing board of the City, as shall be reasonably necessary for the operation of such system. The director of public works shall keep such books and records of matters pertaining to the operation of the system as are necessary to show the operation and condition thereof. The director of public works shall at all times be subject to the supervision and direction of the governing board and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers and authority as are hereinafter provided.

7.0203 Reports

The director of public works shall make monthly reports to the governing body concerning the operation of the department.

7.0204 Application for Water and Sewer Service and Service Connection Charge

Any party desiring water and sewer service from said utility for premises not heretofore connected with the system, and not subject to the provisions of Section 7.0205, shall apply for a connection on a form provided by the City. Such application shall state an exact description of the premises to be served, and the uses, both general and special, to which the water is to be put, the

nature of sewage to be discharged, and the estimated amount of water to be used for a quarter-annual period. Such application shall be filed with the city auditor, and the applicant shall thereupon pay to the city auditor, as the applicable connection charge, as prescribed by the City Fee Schedule, for a residential building, commercial building or multiple dwelling.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

7.0205 Water and Sewer Service - To Property Not Previously Assessed

No permit shall be issued for the making of any connection between any water or sewer line on any property which has not previously been benefited by existing water and/or sewer lines or whenever the owners of such property have not been assessed for such water and sewer lines, unless and until such person shall have paid or made a written statement with the City to pay in monthly installments within a maximum of two years an amount of money as set forth by resolution of the City Commission. The amount of the payment shall be based on the area served and benefit resulting to the property involved. Within 30 days of the receipt of such application, the governing body shall determine the amount of money required to be paid before such connection shall be made and shall advise the applicant property owner of such determination. All such money paid and received pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be placed in the water and sewer utility fund and shall be expended in accordance with the purposes of such fund.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

7.0206 Subsequent Connection to Premises

Any party, other than the original applicant, desiring service for premises where a connection has been made pursuant to Sections 7.0204 and 7.0205 shall make written application therefore as in cases described in Section 7.0204, and if the connection charge for such premises has not been fully paid at such time, the applicant shall pay or agree to pay the remainder thereof in like manner and time as described in Sections 7.0204 and 7.0205.

7.0207 Separate Connections for each Premise - Exception

Unless special permission is granted by the water and sewer director of public works, each premise shall have a separate and distinct water service connection and sewer service connection, and where permission is granted for branch service systems, each unit on the branch shall pay the fees as set in Section 7.0222.

7.0208 Service Outside City Limits - Prohibited - Exception

No application for water and/or sewer service outside the city limits of the City shall be approved and no person outside the corporate limits of the City shall hook up to or make connection with the city water and/or sewer system whether the same now is outside or inside the incorporated limits of the City. Water service outside the corporate limits of the City may be permitted pursuant to contractual agreement of the governing body arising in limited and

extraordinary circumstances but shall be permitted only upon a resolution unanimously adopted by the governing body. (Source: North Dakota Century Code sections 40-33-13 and 40-33-14)

7.0209 Service in Unplatted Areas

No application for water and/or sewer service shall be approved and no person shall hook up to or make connection with the City water and sewer system unless the area to be served by said water and/or sewer connection has been duly platted and the plat approved by the governing body and recorded in the office of the County Recorder.

7.0210 Water Service - Construction of - Maintenance of by Owner

The cost of original installation of all plumbing between the main and any service devices maintained by the consumer and all extensions made to such plumbing, as well as all repairs, shall be borne entirely by the consumer, although such plumbing and services as well as the meters shall at all reasonable times be subject to inspection by duly authorized representatives of the City. Any repairs found to be necessary by such representatives shall be made promptly, or the City will discontinue service.

All services shall be constructed by licensed plumbers at the owner's expense, and each service shall be maintained by the owner. Services heretofore acquired by the issuance of special assessment warrants and assessed against the property, or which may be acquired in the future in like manner, shall likewise be maintained by the owner. Services means the service line running from the point of connection with the City main to the owner's premises.

7.0211 Water Meters - Checked

Every consumer of water shall provide a suitable place where a water meter can be installed and checked, and each consumer shall supply, maintain and change the water meter when necessary.

7.0212 Unlawful to Use Water Not Metered - Unlawful to Tamper with Curb Cock

It shall be unlawful for any person to use water from any premises without the consent of the owner or to use water from the City water system except when drawn through a meter installed by the City. No person except an authorized representative of the City shall turn on or off or tamper with any curb cock.

7.0213 Defective Service - Consumers Duty to Report

All claims for defective service shall be made in writing and filed with the director of public works on or before the fifteenth day of the month next succeeding such defective service, or be deemed waived by the claimant. It shall be the duty of the director of public works to investigate

the facts alleged in each claim and determine the amount, if any, which should be refunded to a claimant by reason of defective service and report such determination to the governing body. If a claim is approved by that body, such amount shall be allowed as credit on the following bill or paid as other claims, but no claim shall be made against the City for any fire or any injuries to the person or property of any consumer of water or sewer service under the provisions hereof.

7.0214 Users Consent to Regulations

Every person applying for water and sewer service from the municipal system, and every owner of property for which such application is made, shall be deemed by such application to consent to all the rules, regulations and rates contained in the resolution or ordinances of the City and to any modification thereof and to all new rules, regulations or rates duly adopted.

7.0215 Regulations Governing Service

The following rules and regulations shall be considered a part of the contract with every person who takes water and/or sewer service supplied by the City through the city waterworks system and every such person who takes such service shall be considered to be bound thereby.

1. Shutting Off Water - Who Authorized. No person except an authorized employee of the water department shall shut off or turn off the water at the curb cock to any premises without first obtaining permission from the water department.
2. City Reserves Right to Shut Off Water - Notice. In the case of making repairs or constructing new work, the City reserves the right to shut off the water at once and keep the same shut off as long as may be necessary to accomplish such purposes. Service may also be discontinued for nonpayment of bills or for disregard of rules and regulations affecting the service.
3. Non-liability of City for Deficient Supply or Quality of Water. It is expressly provided that the City shall in no event be or become liable to any consumer of water for a deficiency in the supply of water or the quality thereof, whether by shutting off the same to make repairs or to construct new work or for any other cause whatsoever.
4. Shutting Off or Turning On Water - Charge for. Except for shutoffs necessary for repair work, in every case where water has been disconnected or shut off, it shall not be turned on again until a fee in the amount established by resolution and all sums, if any, are due to the city on account of said premises is paid.
5. Entrance and Access to Premises by Waterworks Employees. Authorized employees of the water and sewer department shall have free access to any premises supplied with water, at proper times, to inspect and ascertain the condition of the meters and fixtures, or for reading meters, and no owner or occupant shall refuse such employees such access. The water department shall have the right to enter any premises and remove the meter for the purpose of examination and test after first notifying the

owner or occupant, and to shut off the water to premises where free access is prevented.

6. Fire Hydrants - Who May Open. No person except City employees in the performance of their official duties shall open or cause to be opened any fire hydrant without the written permission of the director of public works.

7.0216 Connection to be Supervised by City Employees

In installing water and sewer service, all taps shall be driven, street excavations made, corporation cocks inserted, pipes installed from the main and the curb cock installed in an iron case to which the service is to be connected by the individual, his agent or employee under the supervision, direction and control of the water and sewer department. Ten feet spacing shall be allowed between all water and sewer lines in new connections to service. Failure to comply with this section shall be considered a disregard of the rules of the department and service to the affected property can be withheld or discontinued as the case may be.

7.0217 Service Pipes Specifications

All service pipes connected with the water and sewer utility shall be laid five feet and six inches below the established grades or as low as the street mains. All water and sewer pipes shall be of a material approved by the director of public works.

7.0218 Curb Cock Specifications

There shall be a curb cock in every service line attached to the water mains, the same to be placed as near as possible to the curb if on a street, or within one foot of the alley line if the main is located in the alley. Curb cocks shall be supplied with strong and suitable "T" handles and shall be enclosed in a substantial iron case covered with a tight fitting iron lid with the letter "W" cast upon it. There shall be one or more stops and waste cocks attached to every supply pipe at some point between the curb cock and the meter so that the water can be shut off and the house plumbing entirely drained. There shall be another such stop and waste cock in the pipe on the house side of the meter.

7.0219 Check Valves Required When Necessary

Check valves are hereby required on all water connections to steam boilers or any other connection deemed by the director of public works to require one. Safety and release valves shall be placed on all boilers or other steam apparatus connection with the water system where the steam pressure may be raised in excess of fifty pounds per square inch.

7.0220 Use of Water During Fire - Unlawful

It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person in this City or any person owning or occupying premises connected to the utility to use or allow to be used during a fire any water from said utility except for the purpose of extinguishing said fire; and upon the sounding of a fire alarm,

it shall be the duty of every such person to see that all water services are tightly closed and that no water is used, except for necessary household purposes during said fire.

7.0221 Waterworks Customers May Lay Larger Pipes with Hydrants - When

Whenever proprietors of lumber yards, manufactories, halls, stores, hotels, public buildings or regular customers from the water works wish to lay larger pipes with hydrants and hose couplings, to be used only in case of fire, they will be permitted to connect with the street main at their own expense, upon application to the city auditor and approval by the City governing body.

7.0222 Rates and Charges

Water and sewer rates shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the governing body and the City reserves the right to change the rates from time to time as it deems best. The resolution fixing water and sewer rates and charges shall be kept on file in the office of the city auditor and shall be open for public inspection.

7.0223 Rates and Charges - Liability for Payment

The owner or owners of all real property in the City furnished water or sewer service or service line repairs shall be responsible for the payment of any and all such charges. Owners of premises where water or sewer service is supplied shall notify the water or sewer department or the city auditor in case any tenant moves from said premises, prior to such moving. On request of the owner or owners, the city auditor will bill or cause to be billed the occupant or tenant for such charges, but if such charges are not paid when due by the occupant or tenant, the owner or owners shall be responsible for such charges and they shall be assessed to the property served. It shall be the duty of the city auditor to certify to the county auditor such unpaid water or service charges that are unpaid in the same manner and at the same time as other assessments are certified, and they shall be assessed and collected in the same manner.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

(Revised April 12, 2021, by Ordinance No. 4- 2021)

7.0224 Duty to Report to Auditor

Every owner or operator of a multiple dwelling unit shall file with the city auditor a report indicating the total number of units under his control. Every owner or operator of a mobile home park shall file with the city auditor a report indicating the total number of units in the park and shall further notify the city auditor of any changes in the number of units in the park if the number increases or decreases.

7.0225 Excavators

No person, firm or corporation shall excavate in or on any street, alley or other public place for the purpose of installing any water and/or sewer connection until they have complied with the provisions of Sections 3.0118 through 3.0126 of these ordinances.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

7.0226 Restriction of Use of Water

The City governing body may from time to time declare that water may not be used for specific purposes or may only be used in certain parts of the City on certain days for certain purposes. The City shall have the right to prohibit the watering of lawns and gardens, the washing of cars or such other uses of the water as may be necessary to preserve an adequate supply of water for consumption and use by the general public.

ARTICLE 3 - Regulation of Sewer Use

7.0301 Purpose

It is the purpose of this article to provide ordinances regulating the use of public and private sewers and drains, private sewage disposal, the installation and connection of building sewers and the discharge of waters and wastes into the public sewer system and to provide penalties for violations thereof.

7.0302 Definitions

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of the terms used in the article are as follows:

1. “BOD” (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) means the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20 degrees Centigrade, expressed in milligrams per liter.
2. “Building Drain” means that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five (5) feet (1.5 meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.
3. “Building Sewer” means the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal, also called house connection.
4. “Combined Sewer” means a sewer intended to receive both wastewater and storm or surface water.
5. “Easement” means an acquired legal right for the specific use of land owned by others.
6. “Floatable Oil” is oil, fat or grease in a physical state such that it will separate by gravity from wastewater by treatment in an approved pretreatment facility. A wastewater shall be considered free of floatable fat if it is properly pretreated and the wastewater does not interfere with the collection system.

7. "Garbage" means the animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and serving of foods.
8. "Industrial Wastes" means the wastewater from industrial processes, trade or business as distinct from domestic or sanitary wastes.
9. "Natural Outlet" means any outlet, including storm sewers and combined sewer overflows, into a watercourse pond, ditch, lake or other body of surface or groundwater.
10. "May" is permissive (see "shall," Sec. 18).
11. "Person" means any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation or group.
12. "pH" means the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen-ion concentration. The concentration is the weight of hydrogen ions, in grams, per liter of solution. Neutral water, for example, has a pH value of 7 and a hydrogen-ion concentration of 10^{-7} .
13. "Properly Shredded Garbage" means the wastes from the preparation, cooking and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1.27 centimeters) in any dimension.
14. "Public Sewer" means a common sewer controlled by a governmental agency or public utility.
15. "Sanitary Sewer" means a sewer that carries liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants and institutions together with minor quantities of ground, storm and surface waters that are not admitted intentionally.
16. "Sewage" is the spent water of a community. The preferred term is "wastewater," Sec. 24.
17. "Sewer" means a pipe or conduit that carries wastewater or drainage water.
18. "Shall" is mandatory (see "may," Sec. 10).
19. "Slug" means any discharge of water or wastewater which in concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow exceeds for any period of duration longer than fifteen (15) minutes more than five (5) times the average twenty-four (24) hour concentration or flows during normal operation and shall adversely affect the collection system and/or performance of the wastewater treatment works.

20. “Storm Drain” (sometimes termed “storm sewer”) means a drain or sewer for conveying water, groundwater, subsurface water or unpolluted water from any source.
21. “Superintendent” means the superintendent of wastewater facilities, and/or of wastewater treatment works, and/or of water pollution control of the City or an authorized deputy, agent or representative.
22. “Suspended Solids” means total suspended matter that either floats on the surface of, or is in suspension in water, wastewater or other liquids, and that is removable by laboratory filtering as prescribed in “Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater” and referred to as non-filterable residue.
23. “Unpolluted Water” is water of quality equal to or better than the effluent criteria in effect or water that would not cause violation of receiving water quality standards and would not be benefited by discharge to the sanitary sewers and wastewater treatment facilities provided.
24. “Wastewater” means the spent water of a community. From the standpoint of source, it may be a combination of the liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants and institutions, together with any groundwater, surface water and storm water that may be present.
25. “Wastewater Facilities” means the structures, equipment and processes required to collect, carry away and treat domestic and industrial wastes and dispose of the effluent.
26. “Wastewater Treatment Works” means an arrangement of devices and structures for treating wastewater, industrial wastes and sludge. It is sometimes used as synonymous with “waste treatment plant” or “wastewater treatment plant” or “water pollution control plant.”
27. “Watercourse” means a natural or artificial channel for the passage of water either continuously or intermittently.
28. “Hearing Board” means that board appointed according to the provisions of Section 7.0209.

7.0303 Use of Public Sewers Required

Notwithstanding the provisions of 7.0204 and 7.0205:

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

2. It shall be unlawful to discharge to any natural outlet within the City or in any area under the jurisdiction of the City any sewage or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this ordinance.
3. Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.
4. The owner of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the City, and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is now located or may in the future be located a public sanitary sewer, is hereby required at the owner's expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, within thirty (30) days after date of official notice to do so, provided that said public sewer is within 200 feet (61 meters) of the property line according to the North Dakota plumbing code.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

7.0304 When Private Sewage Disposal Permitted

1. Where a public sanitary or combined sewer is not available under the provisions of Section 7.0303 (4), the building sewer shall be connected to a private wastewater disposal system complying with the provisions of this article.
2. Before commencement of construction of a private wastewater disposal system, the owner shall first obtain a written permit signed by the superintendent. The application for such permit shall be made on a form furnished by the City, which the applicant shall supplement by any plans, specifications and other information as are deemed necessary by the superintendent. A permit and inspection fee as established by resolution shall be paid to the City at the time the application is filed.
3. A permit for a private wastewater disposal system shall not become effective until the installation is completed to the satisfaction of the superintendent of public works. The superintendent shall be allowed to inspect the work at any stage of construction, and in any event, the applicant for the permit shall notify the superintendent when the work is ready for final inspection, and before any underground portions are covered. The inspection shall be made within 72 hours of the receipt of notice by the superintendent.
4. The type, capacities, location and layout of a private wastewater disposal system shall comply with all recommendations and/or regulations of the North Dakota State Department of Health. No permit shall be issued for any private wastewater disposal

system not meeting these conditions. No septic tank or cesspool shall be permitted to discharge to any natural outlet or to the ground surface.

5. At such time as a public sewer becomes available to a property served by a private wastewater disposal system, as provided in Section 7.0303 (4), a direct connection shall be made to the public sewer within thirty (30) days in compliance with this ordinance, and any septic tanks, cesspools and similar private wastewater disposal facilities shall be cleaned of sludge and filled with suitable material.
6. The owner shall operate and maintain the private wastewater disposal facilities in a sanitary manner at all times, at no expense to the City. All sludge or solids, to be disposed of from a septic tank, cesspool or other individual method of disposal shall be disposed of by a licensed septic tank pumper in accordance with Section 23-19-01 of the North Dakota Century Code.
7. No statement contained in this article shall be construed to interfere with any additional requirements that may be imposed by the local health officer.

7.0305 Building Sewers and Connections

1. No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connection with or opening into, use, alter or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the superintendent.
2. There shall be two (2) classes of building sewer permits: (a) for residential and commercial service, and (b) for service to establishments producing industrial wastes. In either case, the owner or his agent, shall make application on a special form furnished by the City. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the superintendent. The permit inspection fees for residential, commercial, or industrial sewer permits shall be as prescribed by the City Fee Schedule, and must be paid at the time the application is submitted.
3. All costs and expense incidental to the installation and connection of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the building sewer.
4. A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building; except where one building stands at the rear of another on an interior lot and no private sewer is available or can be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining alley, court, yard or driveway, the building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer. The City does not and will not assume any obligation or responsibility for damage caused by or resulting from any such single connection.

5. Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test by the superintendent, to meet all requirements of this ordinance.
6. The size, slope alignment, materials of construction of all sanitary sewers including building sewers, and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of the pipe, jointing, testing and backfilling the trench, shall all conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the City. In the absence of suitable code provisions, specifications of the state building and plumbing codes shall apply.
7. Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, sanitary sewage carried by such building drain shall be lifted by an approved means and discharged to the building sewer.
8. No person shall make connection of roof downspouts, foundation drains, areaway drains or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer, or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer unless such connection is approved by the superintendent and the North Dakota State Department of Health.
9. The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the City. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight and verified by proper testing. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the superintendent before installation.
10. The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the superintendent when the building sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection and testing shall be made under the supervision of the superintendent or his representative.
11. All excavations for building sewer installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the City.

7.0306 Use of Public Sewers

1. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any unpolluted waters such as storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage or cooling water to any building drain or sewer which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to the sanitary sewer unless such connection is approved by the superintendent and the North Dakota State Department of Health.

2. Storm water other than that exempted under Section 7.0306 (1) and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as combined sewers or storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the superintendent and the North Dakota State Department of Health.
3. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described water or wastes to any public sewers:
 - a. Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.
 - b. Any waters containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the wastewater treatment plant.
 - c. Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5, or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment and personnel of the wastewater works.
 - d. Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the wastewater facilities such as, but not limited to ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, etc. either whole or ground by garbage grinders.
4. The following described substances, materials, waters or waste shall be limited in discharges to city systems to concentrations or quantities which will not harm either the sewers, wastewater treatment process or equipment, will not have an adverse effect on the receiving stream, or will not otherwise endanger lives, limb, public property or constitute a nuisance. The superintendent may set limitations lower than the limitations established in the regulations below if in his opinion such more severe limitations are necessary to meet the above objectives. In forming his opinion as to the acceptability, the superintendent will consider such factors as the quantity of subject waste in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, the wastewater treatment process employed, capacity of the wastewater treatment plant, degree of treatability of the waste in the wastewater treatment plant and other pertinent factors. The limitations or restrictions on materials or characteristics of waste or wastewaters discharged to the sanitary sewer which shall not be violated without approval of the superintendent are as follows:
 - a. Wastewater having a temperature higher than 150 degrees Fahrenheit (65 degrees Celsius).

- b. Wastewater containing more than 25 milligrams per liter of petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oils or product of mineral oil origin.
 - c. Wastewater from industrial plants containing floatable oils, fat or grease.
 - d. Any garbage that has not been properly shredded (see Section 7.0302 (13). Garbage grinders may be connected to sanitary sewers from homes, hotels, institutions, restaurants, hospitals, catering establishments or similar places where garbage originates from the preparation of food in kitchens for the purpose of consumption on the premises or when served by caterers.
 - e. Any waters or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc and similar objectionable or toxic substances to such degree that any such material received in the composite wastewater at the wastewater treatment works exceeds the limits established by the superintendent for such materials.
 - f. Any waters or wastes containing odor-producing substances exceeding limits which may be established by the superintendent.
 - g. Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the superintendent in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.
 - h. Quantities of flow, concentrations or both which constitute a "slug" as defined herein.
 - i. Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the wastewater treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such a degree that the wastewater treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.
 - j. Any water or wastes which, by interaction with other water or wastes in the public sewer system, release obnoxious gases, form suspended solids which interfere with the collection system or create a condition deleterious to structures and treatment processes.
5. If any waters or wastes are discharged, or are proposed to be discharged to the public sewers, which waters contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in Section 7.0306(4), and which in the judgment of the superintendent, may have a deleterious effect upon the wastewater facilities, processes, equipment, or receiving waters, or which otherwise create a hazard to life or constitute a public nuisance, the superintendent may:
- a. Reject the wastes;

- b. Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition for discharge to the public sewers;
- c. Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge; and/or
- d. Require payment to cover the added costs of handling and treating the wastes not covered by other sewer charges.

If the superintendent permits the pretreatment or equalization of waste flows, the design and installation of the plants and equipment shall be subject to the review and approval of the superintendent and the North Dakota State Department of Health.

- 6. Grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be provided when, in the opinion of the superintendent, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing floatable grease in excessive amounts as specified in 7.0306 (4) (c), or any flammable wastes, sand or other harmful ingredients; except that such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the North Dakota Plumbing Code and shall be located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection. In the maintaining of these interceptors the owner shall be responsible for the proper removal and disposal by appropriate means of the captivated material and shall maintain records of the dates, and means of disposal which are subject to review by the superintendent. Any removal and having of the collected materials not performed by owner personnel must be performed by currently licensed waste disposal firms.
- 7. Where pretreatment or flow-equalizing facilities are provided or required by any waters or wastes, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner at his expense.
- 8. When required by the superintendent, the owner of any property serviced by a building sewer carrying industrial wastes shall install a suitable structure together with such necessary meters and other appurtenances in the building sewer to facilitate observation, sampling and measurement of the wastes. Such structures, when required, shall be accessibly and safely located and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the superintendent. The structure shall be installed by the owner at his expense and shall be maintained by the owner so as to be safe and accessible at all times.
- 9. The superintendent may require a use of sewer services to provide information needed to determine compliance with this ordinance. These requirements may include:
 - a. Wastewaters discharge peak rate and volume over a specified time period.
 - b. Chemical analyses of wastewaters.

- c. Information on raw materials, processes and products affecting wastewater volume and quality.
 - d. Quantity and disposition of specific liquid, sludge, oil, solvent or other materials important to sewer use control.
 - e. A plot plan of sewers of the user's property showing sewer and pretreatment facility location.
 - f. Details of wastewater pretreatment facilities.
 - g. Details of systems to prevent and control the losses of materials through spills to the City sewer.
10. All measurements, test and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made in this ordinance shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater," published by the American Public Health Association. Sampling methods, location, times, durations and frequencies are to be determined on an individual basis by the superintendent.
11. No statement contained in this section shall be construed as preventing any special agreement or arrangement between the City and any industrial concern whereby an industrial waste of unusual strength or character may be accepted by the City for treatment.

7.0307 Damage to Sewer Works Prohibited

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

7.0308 Powers and Authority of Inspectors

1. The superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purposes of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling and testing pertinent to discharge to the community system in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance.
2. The superintendent or other duly authorized employees are authorized to obtain information concerning industrial processes that have a direct bearing on the kind and source of discharge to the wastewater collection system. The industry may withhold information considered confidential. The industry must establish that the revelation to the public of the information in question might result in an advantage to competitors.

3. While performing the necessary work on private properties referred to in Section 7.0308 (1), the superintendent or duly authorized employees of the City shall observe all safety rules applicable to the premises established by the company, and the company shall be held harmless for injury or death to the City employees, and the City shall indemnify the company against loss or damage to its property by City employees and against liability claims and demands for personal injury or property damage asserted against the company growing out of the gauging and sampling operation, except such as may be caused by negligence or failure of the company to maintain safe conditions as required in Section 7.0306 (8).
4. The superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the City holds a duly negotiated easement for the purposes of, but not limited to, inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, repair and maintenance of any portion of the wastewater facilities lying within said easement. All entry and subsequent work, if any, on said easement, shall be done in full accordance with the terms of the duly negotiated easement pertaining to the private property involved.

7.0309 Hearing Board

1. A hearing board, consisting of three (3) members, may be selected as needed for arbitration of differences between the superintendent and sewer users on matters concerning interpretation and execution of the provisions of this ordinance by the superintendent.
2. If a hearing board is used, one member of the board shall be selected to represent the City, one member shall be selected to represent the sewer user involved in the arbitration and the third member shall be acceptable to both parties and shall serve as the chairman in the arbitration.

7.0310 Penalties

1. Any person found to be violating any provision of this ordinance except Section 7.0307 shall be served by the City with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations.
2. Any person who continues any violation beyond the time limit provided for in Section 7.0310(1) upon proof of a preponderance of the evidence shall be subject to a civil penalty and shall be fined an amount as set by resolution of the City Commission for each violation. Each day in which any such violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

3. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall become liable to the City for any expense, loss or damage occasioned the City by reason of such violation.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

7.0311 Validity

The invalidity of any section, clause, sentence or provision of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part of this ordinance which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

ARTICLE 4 - Sewer Surcharge

7.0401 Purpose

1. The purpose of this article shall be to generate sufficient revenue to pay all costs for the operation and maintenance of the complete wastewater system. The costs shall be distributed to all users of the wastewater system in proportion to each user's contribution to the total loading of the treatment works. Factors such as strength (BOD and TSS), volume and delivery flow rate characteristics shall be considered and included as the basis for the user's contribution to ensure a proportional distribution of operation and maintenance costs to each user.
2. The definitions set forth in Section 7.0302 of this chapter shall also apply to this article.

7.0402 Determining the Total Annual Cost of Operation and Maintenance

The City or city engineer shall determine the total annual costs of operation and maintenance of the wastewater system which are necessary to maintain the capacity and performance, during the service life of the treatment works, for which such works are designed and constructed. The total annual cost of operation and maintenance shall include, but need not be limited to, labor, repairs, equipment replacement, maintenance, necessary modifications, power, sampling, laboratory tests and a reasonable contingency fund.

7.0403 Determining Each User's Wastewater Contribution Percentage

The City or city engineer shall determine for each user's average daily volume of wastewater, which has been discharged to the wastewater system, which shall then be divided by the average daily volume of all wastewater discharged to the wastewater system, to determine such user's volume contribution percentage. The amount used as the total average daily volume of wastewater shall exclude infiltration and inflow. The City or the city engineer shall determine each user's average daily poundage of 5-day 20-degree Centigrade biochemical oxygen demand which has been discharged to the wastewater system which shall then be divided by the average daily

poundage of all 5-day 20-degree Centigrade biochemical oxygen demand discharged to the wastewater system to determine each user's Biochemical oxygen demand contribution percentage.

The City or city engineer shall determine each user's average daily poundage of suspended solids that has been discharged to the wastewater system which shall then be divided by the average daily poundage of all suspended solids discharged to the wastewater system, to determine such user's suspended solids contribution percentage. Each user's volume contribution percentage, biochemical oxygen demand contribution percentage and suspended solids contribution percentage shall be multiplied by the annual operation and maintenance costs for the total volume, the total 5-day 20-degree Centigrade biochemical oxygen demand and the total suspended solids for the wastewater system, respectively.

7.0404 Determining a Surcharge System for Users with Above Normal Volume, BOD and TSS

The City or the city engineer shall determine the average total suspended solids (TSS) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) daily loadings for the average residential user and residential user class. The City will assess a surcharge rate for all non-residential users discharging wastes with volume, BOD and TSS strengths greater than the average residential user. Such users will be assessed a surcharge sufficient to cover the costs of treating such users above-normal strength wastes and/or volume. Normal strength wastes are considered to be 200 mg/1 BOD and 250 mg/1TSS.

7.0405 Surcharge Rate Schedule for Above Normal Volume of Wastes

Residential users are considered to be one class of user and are hereby levied a flat fee per month as adopted by resolution of the City Commission. Non-residential users with flows no greater than the average residential user's flow of 4,000 gallons per month and with BOD and TSS no greater than the average residential user's strength will be levied the same charge as the average residential user.

Non-residential users with volumes greater than the average residential user will pay an additional charge as determined by resolution of the City Commission.

7.0406 Surcharge Rate Schedule for Above Normal Strength Wastes

Any non-residential user with BOD and TSS greater than the average residential user's strength will pay a surcharge in accordance with the rates determined by the City or city engineer.

The City or city engineer may determine the total suspended solids (TSS) and 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) daily loadings for the average residential user and/or user class or in lieu of such determination can consider the average residential strength wastes to be 200 mg/1 BOD₅ and 250 mg/1 TSS. The City will assess a surcharge rate for all non-residential users discharging wastes with BOD and TSS strengths greater than the average residential user. The surcharge will be sufficient to cover the costs of treating such users above normal strength wastes as set by resolution of the City Commission.

7.0407 Determining Each User's Wastewater Service Charge

Each non-residential user's wastewater cost contributions as determined in Sections 7.0405 and 7.0406 shall be added together to determine such user's annual wastewater service charge. Residential users may be considered to be one class of user and an equitable service charge may be determined for each user based on an estimate of the total wastewater contribution of this class of user. The governing body may classify industrial, commercial and other non-residential establishments as a residential user, provided that the wastes from these establishments are equivalent to the wastes from the average residential user with respect to volume, suspended solids and 5-day 20-degree Centigrade biochemical oxygen demand. Each user's wastewater treatment cost contribution will be assessed in accordance with the fee schedule as set by resolution of the City Commission.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

7.0408 Payment of the User's Wastewater Service Charge

The City may submit an annual statement to the user for the user's annual wastewater service charge or one-twelfth of the user's annual wastewater service charge may be included with the monthly water and/or wastewater utility billing. Should any user fail to pay the user wastewater service charge within a term set by resolution of the City Commission, the City may stop the wastewater service to the property.

7.0409 Review of Each User's Wastewater Service Charge

The City shall review the total annual cost of operation and maintenance as well as each user's wastewater contribution percentage on an annual basis and will revise the system as necessary to assure equity of the service charge system established herein and to assure that sufficient funds are obtained to adequately operate and maintain the wastewater system. If a significant user, such as an industry, has completed in-plant modifications which would change that user's wastewater contribution percentages, the user can present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body such factual information and the City shall determine if the user's wastewater contribution percentages are to be changed. The City shall notify the user of its findings as soon as possible.

7.0410 Wastes Prohibited from Being Discharged to the Wastewater System

The discharge of any waters containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any wastewater treatment process or to constitute a hazard in the receiving waters of the wastewater treatment plan is hereby prohibited.

ARTICLE 5 - Adoption of State Plumbing Code

7.0501 Adoption

To promote and protect the public health there is hereby adopted the State Plumbing Code, which has been adopted by the State Plumbing Board and approved by the State Health Department, consisting of rules and regulations governing plumbing work, and the whole thereof, of which not less than one (1) copy is on file in the office of the city auditor, and the same is hereby adopted as fully as if set out at length herein and all plumbing work in the City shall comply with said code.

7.0502 Plumbing Code - Enforcement of Provisions

All plumbing work and all private sanitary drains and cesspools now existing, or hereafter to be installed, altered or repaired in any building or in or under any private property within the corporate limits shall be under the supervision and regulation of the superintendent of the water and sewer department, whose duty it shall be to enforce all the provisions of this code relating thereto and from time to time to make such rules and regulations as may be appropriate for the execution of the same.

7.0503 Plumbing Code - Changes in Existing Installations

The superintendent of the water and sewer department is hereby given authority to order the repair, alteration or removal of any sanitary sewer connection or plumbing, any connection to storm water sewer, or any private sanitary drain, cesspool or privy, which in the superintendent's judgment is so installed or is in such condition as to be unsanitary, or to constitute a public nuisance or menace to health. In case of such repair, alteration or removal, if the plumbing code is not observed and connections not properly executed by the owner or owners thereof, in accordance with the superintendent's directions, the superintendent may cause the same to be discontinued from any source of water supply. It shall thereafter be unlawful for any person in any manner to use any such installation, or to supply water thereto, until the same shall have been put in a safe and sanitary condition according to the superintendent's direction.

7.0504 Plumbing Code - New Installations

All plumbing work and all excavations in the public streets or alleys, the cutting and replacing of pavement, laying of water and sewer connections and connections to storm water sewers and all construction of private sanitary drains and cesspools within the corporate limits shall be undertaken and executed only by a master plumber or other persons as have obtained a general license for such work together with a permit for each separate job, provided that the tapping of water mains and the placing of corporate cocks therein shall be done only under the direction of city employees.

ARTICLE 6 - General Penalty Provision

7.0601 Penalty for Violation of Chapter

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter upon proof of a preponderance of the evidence shall be subject to a civil penalty and shall be fined an amount

as set by resolution of the City Commission for each violation. Each day the violation continues constitutes a separate violation.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)

APPENDIX A

SURCHARGE RATE SCHEDULE FOR ABOVE-NORMAL STRENGTH WASTES

The City or its engineer has determined that the average total suspended solids (TSS) and 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) daily loadings for the average residential user are 200 mg/1 BOD₅ and 250 mg/1 TSS. The City or its engineer has assessed a surcharge rate for all non-residential users discharging wastes with BOD and TSS strengths greater than the average residential user. The surcharge will be sufficient to cover the costs of treating such user's above-normal strength wastes. Such users will pay an additional service charge as set by resolution of the City Commission.

(Revised March 11, 2024, by Ordinance No. 2-2024)