

ORDINANCE NO. 82-1

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE USE, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A SEWER SYSTEM BY THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE, PROVIDING FOR DUTIES OF THE CITY AND OF THE CUSTOMERS, ESTABLISHING VIOLATIONS OF THE USE OF SAID SYSTEM AND PROVIDING SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE AS FOLLOWS:

TITLE 13

CHAPTER

- 1. Sewers
- 2. Supplementary Sewer Regulations

CHAPTER 1

SEWERS

SECTION

- 13-101. Application and scope.
- 13-102. Definitions.
- 13-103. Obtaining service.
- 13-104. Application and contract for service.
- 13-105. Connection charges.
- 13-106. Schedule of rates.
- 13-107. Multiple services through a single meter.
- 13-108. Billing.
- 13-109. Discontinuance or refusal of service.
- 13-110. Reconnection charge.
- 13-111. Termination of service by customer.
- 13-112. Access to customers' premises.
- 13-113. Inspections.
- 13-114. Customer's responsibility for system's property.
- 13-115. Customer's responsibility for violation.
- 13-116. Interruption of service.

13-101. Application and scope. The provisions of this chapter are a part of all contracts for receiving sewer service from the municipality and shall apply whether the service is based

upon contract, agreement, signed application, or otherwise.

13-102. Definitions. (1) "Customer" means any person, firm, or corporation who receives sewer service from the municipality under either an express or implied contract.

(2) "Household" means any two (2) or more persons living together as a family group.

(3) "Service line" shall consist of the pipe line extending from any sewer main of the municipality to private property, the service line shall be construed to include the pipe line extending from the municipality's sewer main to and including the grinder pump.

(4) "Dwelling" means any single structure, with auxiliary buildings, occupied by one or more persons or households for residential purposes.

(5) "Premise" means any structure or group of structures operated as a single residence, provided, however, the term "premise" shall not include more than one (1) dwelling.

13-103. Obtaining service. A formal application for either original or additional service must be made and be approved by the municipality before connection or grinder pump installation orders will be issued and work performed.

13-104. Application and contract for service. Each prospective customer desiring sewer service will be required to sign a standard form of contract before service is supplied. If, for any reason, a customer, after signing a contract for service, does not take such service by reason of not occupying the premises or otherwise, he shall reimburse the municipality for the expense incurred by reason of its endeavor to furnish said service.

The receipt of a prospective customer's application for service, regardless of whether or not accompanied by a deposit, shall not obligate the municipality to render the service applied for. If the service applied for cannot be supplied in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and general practice, the liability of the municipality to the

applicant shall be limited to the return of any deposit made by such applicant.

13-105. Connection charges. Service lines will be laid by the municipality from its mains to the property line at the expense of the applicant for service. The location of such lines will be determined by the municipality.

Before a new sewer service line will be laid by the municipality, the applicant shall make a deposit equal to the estimated cost of the installation, and pay the tap charge set by the municipality by resolution.

This deposit shall be used to pay the cost of laying such new service line and appurtenant equipment. If such cost exceeds the amount of the deposit, the applicant shall pay to the municipality the amount of such excess cost when billed therefor. If such cost is less than the amount of the deposit, the amount by which the deposit exceeds such cost shall be refunded to the applicant.

When a service line is completed, the municipality shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of such service line from the main to and including the grinder pump and such portion of the service line shall belong to the municipality. That portion of the gravity service line beyond the property line, in the case of gravity sewers shall belong to and be the responsibility of the customer.

13-106. Schedule of rates. All sewer service shall be furnished under such rate schedules as the municipality may from time to time adopt by appropriate ordinance or resolution.

13-107. Multiple services through a single meter. No customer shall supply sewer service to more than one dwelling or premise from a single service line without first obtaining the written permission of the municipality.

Where the municipality allows more than one dwelling or premise to be served through a single service line, the amount of water used by all the dwellings and premises served through a single service line and meter shall be allocated to each separate dwelling

or premise served. The sewer charges for each such dwelling or premise thus served shall be computed just as if each such dwelling or premise had received through a separately metered service the amount of water so allocated to it, such computation to be made at the municipality's applicable sewer rates schedule, including the provisions as to minimum bills. The separate charges for each dwelling or premise served through a single service line and meter shall then be added together, and the sum thereof shall be billed to the customer in whose name the service is supplied.

13-108. Billing. Bills for residential sewer service will be rendered monthly by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee.

Both charges shall be collected as a unit. Water and sewer service may be discontinued for nonpayment of the combined bill.

Water and sewer bills must be paid on or before the discount date shown thereon to obtain the net rate, otherwise the gross rate shall apply. Failure to receive a bill will not release a customer from payment obligation, nor extend the discount date.

The municipality shall not be liable for any damages resulting from discontinuing service under the provisions of this section, even though payment of the bill is made at any time on the day that service is actually discontinued.

If a meter fails to register properly, or if a meter is removed to be tested or repaired, or if water is received other than through a meter, the municipality reserves the right to render an estimated bill based on the best information available.

13-109. Discontinuance or refusal of service. The municipality shall have the right to discontinue sewer service or to refuse to connect service for a violation of, or a failure to comply with, any of the following:

- (1) These rules and regulations.
- (2) The customer's application for service.
- (3) The customer's contract for service.

Such right to discontinue service shall apply to all service received through a single connection or service, even though more than one (1) customer or tenant is furnished service therefrom, and even though the delinquency or violation is limited to only one such customer or tenant.

Discontinuance of service by the municipality for any cause stated in these rules and regulations shall not release the customer from liability for service already received or from liability for payments that thereafter become due under other provisions of the customer's contract.

No service shall be discontinued unless the customer is given reasonable notice in advance of such impending action and the reason therefor. The customer shall also be notified of his right to a hearing prior to such disconnection if he disputes the reason therefor and requests such hearing by the date specified in the notice. When a hearing is requested, the customer shall have the right to have a representative at such hearing and shall be entitled to testify and to present witnesses on his behalf.

Also, when such hearing has been requested, the customer's service shall not be terminated until a final decision is reached by the hearing officer and the customer is notified of that decision.

13-110. Reconnection charge. Whenever service has been discontinued as provided for above, a reconnection charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be collected by the municipality before service is restored.

13-111. Termination of service by customer. Customers who have fulfilled their contract terms and wish to discontinue service must give at least three (3) days written notice to that effect unless the contract specifies otherwise. Notice to discontinue service prior to the expiration of a contract term will not relieve the customer from any minimum or guaranteed payment under such contract or applicable rate schedule.

When service is being furnished to an occupant of premises under a contract not in the occupant's name, the municipality

reserves the right to impose the following conditions on the right of the customer to discontinue service under such a contract:

(1) Written notice of the customer's desire for such service to be discontinued may be required; and the municipality shall have the right to continue such service for a period of not to exceed ten (10) days after receipt of such written notice, during which time the customer shall be responsible for all charges for such service. If the municipality should continue service after such ten (10) day period subsequent to the receipt of the customer's written notice to discontinue service, the customer shall not be responsible for charges for any service furnished after the expiration of such ten (10) day period.

(2) During such ten (10) day period, or thereafter, the occupant of premises to which service has been ordered discontinued by a customer other than such occupant, may be allowed by the municipality to enter into a contract for service in the occupant's own name upon the occupant's complying with these rules and regulations with respect to a new application for service.

13-112. Access to customers' premises. The municipality's identified representatives and employees shall be granted access to all customers' premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading meters, for testing, inspecting, repairing, removing, and replacing all equipment belonging to the municipality, and for inspecting customers' plumbing and premises generally in order to secure compliance with these rules and regulations.

13-113. Inspections. The municipality shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to inspect any installation or plumbing system before sewer service is furnished or at any later time. The municipality reserves the right to refuse service or to discontinue service to any premises not meeting standards fixed by municipal ordinances regulating building and plumbing, or not in accordance with any special contract, these rules and regulations, or other requirements of the municipality.

Any failure to inspect or reject a customer's

installation or plumbing system shall not render the municipality liable or responsible for any loss or damage which might have been avoided had such inspection or rejection been made.

13-114. Customer's responsibility for system's property.

Except as herein elsewhere expressly provided, all service connections, and other equipment furnished by or for the municipality shall be and remain the property of the municipality. Each customer shall provide space for and exercise proper care to protect the property of the municipality on his premises. In the event of loss or damage to such property arising from the neglect of a customer to care for it properly, the cost of necessary repairs or replacements shall be paid by the customer.

13-115. Customer's responsibility for violations.

Where the municipality furnishes sewer service to a customer, such customer shall be responsible for all violations of these rules and regulations which occur on the premises so served. Personal participation by the customer in any such violations shall not be necessary to impose such personal responsibility on him.

13-116. Interruption of service. The municipality will endeavor to furnish continuous sewer service, but does not guarantee to the customer continuous service. The municipality shall not be liable for any damages for any interruption of service whatsoever.

CHAPTER 2

SUPPLEMENTARY SEWER REGULATIONS

SECTION

13-201. Definitions.

13-202. Use of public sewers required.

13-203. Private sewage disposal.

13-204. Building sewers and connections.

13-205. Use of public sewers.

13-206. Protection from damage.

13-206. Protection from damage.

13-207. Powers and authority of inspectors.

13-208. Violations.

13-201. Definitions. Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this chapter shall be as follows:

(1) "BOD" (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20° C. expressed in milligrams per liter.

(2) "Building drain" shall mean 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" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.

(4) "Combined sewer" shall mean a sewer receiving both surface runoff and sewage.

(5) "Garbage" shall mean solid wastes from the domestic and commercial preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage, and sale of produce.

(6) "Natural outlet" shall mean any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or groundwater.

(7) "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or group.

(8) "pH" shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen-ions in grams per liter of solution.

(9) "Properly shredded garbage" shall mean the wastes from the preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half (1/2)

inch (1.27 centimeters) in any dimension.

(10) "Public sewer" shall mean a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights, and controlled by public authority.

(11) "Sanitary sewer" shall mean a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and groundwaters are not intentionally admitted.

(12) "Sewage" shall mean a combination of the water carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, and stormwaters as may be present.

(13) "Sewage treatment plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.

(14) "Sewage works" shall mean all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating, and disposing of sewage.

(15) "Sewer" shall mean a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.

(16) "Shall" is mandatory; "may" is permissive.

(17) "Slug" shall mean any discharge of water, sewage, or industrial waste 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 of flows during normal operation.

(18) "Storm drain" (sometimes termed "storm sewer") shall mean a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage, but excludes sewage and industrial wastes, other than unpolluted cooling water.

(19) "City Manager" shall mean the superintendent of sewage works and/or of water pollution control of the municipality, or his authorized deputy, agent, or representative.

(20) "Suspended solids" shall mean solids that are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids, and which are removable by laboratory filtering.

(21) "Watercourse" shall mean a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.

13-202. Use of public sewers required. (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 municipality, or in any area under its jurisdiction, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.

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

(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 municipality 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 or combined sewer of the municipality, is hereby required at his expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, within ninety (90) days after date of official notice to do so.

13-203. Private sewage disposal. The disposal of sewage by means other than the use of the sanitary sewage system shall be in accordance with local and state laws. The disposal of sewage by private disposal systems shall be permissible only in those instances where service from the sanitary sewage system is not available.

13-204. Building sewers and connections. (1) No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or apurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit

from the City Manager.

(2) There shall be two classes of building sewer permits for residential service, one for pressure sewers, and one for gravity sewers. The owner or his agent shall make application on a special form furnished by the municipality. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the City Manager.

(3) All costs and expenses incident to the installation and connection of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the municipality from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the sewer.

(4) A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building except that 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, courtyard, or driveway, the building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer.

(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 chapter.

(6) The size, slope, alignment, materials of construction of a building sewer, and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of the pipe, jointing, testing, and backfilling the trench shall all conform to the requirements of the building code or other applicable rules and regulations of the municipality. In the absence of code provisions or in amplification thereof, the materials and procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and W.P.C.F. Manual of Practice No. 9 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, exterior 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.

(9) The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the building codes or other applicable rules and regulations of the municipality, or the procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and the W.P.C.F. Manual of Practice No. 9. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the City Manager before installation.

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

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

13.205. Use of the public sewers. (1) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, or uncontaminated cooling water.

(2) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters 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 or wastes 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, to constitute a hazard to humans or animals, to create a public nuisance, or to create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage 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 sewage 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 sewage works such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, 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.

(3) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged the following described substances, materials, waters, or wastes if it appears likely in the opinion of the City Manager that such wastes can harm either the sewers, sewage treatment process, or equipment, have an adverse effect on the receiving stream, or can otherwise endanger life, limb, public property, or constitute a nuisance. In forming his opinion as to the acceptability of these wastes, the City Manager will give consideration to such factors as the quantities of subject wastes in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, nature of the sewage treatment process, and other pertinent factors. The substances prohibited are:

(a) Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than one hundred fifty (150°) F (65°C).

(b) Any water or waste containing fats, wax,

grease, or oils, whether emulsified or not, in excess of one hundred (100) mg/l or containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between thirty-two (32) and one hundred (150°) F (0 and 65°C).

(c) Any waters or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc, cyanide, and similar objectionable or toxic substances; or wastes exerting an excessive chlorine requirement, to such degree that any such material received in the composite sewage at the sewage treatment works exceeds the limits established by the City Manager and/or the Division of Water Management, Tennessee Department of Public Health, for such materials.

(d) Any garbage that has not been properly shredded. The installation and operation of any garbage grinder equipped with a motor of three-fourths (3/4) horsepower (0.76 hp metric) or greater shall be subject to the review and approval of the City Manager.

(e) Any waters or wastes containing phenols or other taste- or odor-producing substances in such concentrations exceeding limits which may be established by the City Manager as necessary, after treatment of the composite sewage, to meet the requirements of the state, federal, or other public agencies or jurisdiction for such discharge to the receiving waters.

(f) Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the City Manager in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.

(g) Any water or wastes having a pH in excess of 9.5.

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

(i) Waters or wastes containing suspended solids in excess of 300 mg/l.

(4) 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 subsection (3) of this section, and which are in the judgment of the City Manager and/or the Division of Water Management, Tennessee Department of Public Health, may have a deleterious effect upon the sewage works, processes, equipment, or receiving waters, or which otherwise create a hazard to life or constitute a public nuisance, the City Manager 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 existing taxes or sewer charges under the provisions of subsection (10) of this section.

If the City Manager 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 City Manager and the Tennessee Department of Public Health and subject to the requirements of all applicable codes, ordinances, and laws.

(5) All measurements, tests, and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made

in this chapter shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater," published by the American Public Health Association, and shall be determined upon suitable samples taken. The particular analysis involved will determine whether a twenty-four (24) hour composite of all outfalls of a premise is appropriate or whether a grab sample or samples should be taken. Normally, but not always, BOD and suspended solids analysis are obtained from 24-hour composites of all outfalls whereas PH's are determined from periodic grab samples.

13-206. Protection from damage. No unauthorized 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 sewage works. Any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest under charge of disorderly conduct.

13-207. Powers and authority of inspectors. (1) The City Manager and other duly authorized employees of the municipality bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purposes of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) While performing the necessary work on private properties referred to in subsection (1) of this section, the City Manager or duly authorized employees of the municipality shall observe all safety rules applicable to the premises.

(3) The City Manager and other duly authorized employees of the municipality bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the municipality 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 sewage works lying within said easement.


All entries 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.

13-208. Violations. (1) Any person found to be violating any provision of this chapter except section 13-206 shall be served by the municipality 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 shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined under the general penalty clause for this municipal code of ordinances.

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


MAYOR

VICE MAYOR


COMMISSIONER


RECORDER

Passed on First Reading:
February 17, 1982
Passed on Second Reading:
March 17, 1982
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June 28, 1982