

SEWER PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF CROSSLAKE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2001
6:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

Pursuant to due notice and call, the City Council met in the Chambers of City Hall for the purpose of taking public comments regarding the proposed Sewer Ordinance. Present at the hearing was Mayor Darrell Swanson, Councilmembers Sandy Eliason, Chuck Miller, Irene Schultz and Dean Swanson. Also present was City Administrator Tom Swenson, City Attorney Paul Sandelin, City Engineers Dave Reese and Mark Hallan, Community Development Director Paul Larson, Public Works Director Ted Strand, Park and Recreation Director Jon Henke, General Manager Dennis Leaser and Clerk/Treasurer Darlene Roach. There were five individuals in the audience. (Sign in sheet attached as a permanent part of the record.)

Mayor Swanson called the public hearing to order and thanked the Sewer Committee for their many months of work on the proposed Ordinance. The meeting was then turned over to City Attorney Paul Sandelin who reviewed the major points of interest in the Ordinance. City Attorney Sandelin stated that the proposed Ordinance addresses Phase I of the sewer project as well as construction of the plant. It also deals with construction charges and user charges. Other items addressed in the Ordinance include pre-treatment requirements, requirements for obtaining a permit to connect to the sewer system, monitoring, enforcement, physical connection charges and monthly charges, billing procedures for user charges, legal entry to premises and damage to utilities.

City Attorney Sandelin turned the meeting over to City Engineer Dave Reese to give a more detailed explanation of items contained in the Ordinance. City Engineer Dave Reese stated that Equivalent Residential Units have been established for calculating connection charges for users. A restaurant having eight seats, for example, would be charged 1 ERU, whereas a restaurant having twenty-four seats would be charged 3 ERU's to connect to the system. The proposed cost for the connection charge is \$3,000 per ERU. In addition to the connection charge a monthly user charge will be determined by the City. All persons situated in Phase I are required to connect to the system within twelve months of the system being operational since on-site sewer systems will no longer be allowed. Undeveloped land in Phase I will be charged an availability charge (50% of the connection charge) until the parcel is developed or a permit is issued. If the undeveloped land is sub-divided, additional charges per lot could be assessed. The Ordinance also allows the City access to property to take any necessary corrective action which may be required. Contractors will be required to notify the City of any excavations in the area of the sewer lines. If the utility is damaged by a contractor, the Ordinance addresses what action is taken. The Ordinance prohibits connection of storm sewer lines to the sanitary system. Also, manholes would be prohibited to the public for access. The City will provide a service stub to the right-of-way, however the property owner will be required to have the sewer line installed onto private property. The City will require inspection of the sewer line prior to backfilling with forty-eight hours notice required. Abandonment of current systems will be the responsibility of the property

owner. The connection charge of \$3,000 will be increased \$100 per year beginning January 1, 2004 and annually thereafter.

City Attorney Paul Sandelin stated that although the connection charge is \$3,000, the Committee agreed that multiple dwellings or large commercial users having more than 10 ERU's could amortize these charges over a period of ten years at an interest rate of no more than two percent over the bond rate. Over 20 ERU's could amortize charges over a period of twenty years. Payments would be due January 1st and July 1st of each year.

City Attorney Paul Sandelin read a portion of the Ordinance dealing with easement uses and restrictions.

The hearing was open to questions from the Council. Councilmember Miller asked about the connection charge being increased \$100 a year beginning January 1, 2004 and annually thereafter. City Engineer Dave Reese stated that this was due to the life of the system and how debt is retired. City Administrator Tom Swenson stated that the Committee reviewed increasing the connection charge based on information received from other cities. City Engineer Dave Reese will provide Councilmember Miller with this information. Mayor Swanson inquired whether property owners contracted with plumbers to have on-site systems abandoned and City Engineer Dave Reese stated that plumbers would do this work.

The hearing was open to questions from the audience. Bill Reed, resident of Sand Pointe Villa's, asked whether certain qualifications were required of those individuals installing sewer lines on private property. City Engineer Dave Reese stated that the City will have a list of licensed plumbers who are certified by the Department of Health. There being no further comments, MOTION 09PH1-01-01 WAS MADE BY SANDY ELIASON AND SECONDED BY IRENE SCHULTZ TO ADJOURN THIS PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Recorded and transcribed by,



Darlene J. Roach
Clerk/Treasurer

