

## Chapter 3-2

### SANITARY SEWERS

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Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this Ordinance shall be as follows:

(A) "APPROVING AUTHORITY" shall mean the City Council of the City of Storm Lake, or its duly authorized board, agent or representative.

(B) "BOD" (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen expressed in parts per million by weight, utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory conditions in five (5) days at twenty degrees (20°) Centigrade. The laboratory determinations shall be made in accordance with procedures set forth in "Standard Methods".

(C) "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 feet (5') (1.5 meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.

(D) "BUILDING SEWER" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal. (Also called house connection.)

(E) "CITY" shall mean the City of Storm Lake, Iowa, or any authorized person acting in its behalf.

(F) "COD" (Chemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the oxygen equivalent of that portion of the organic and inorganic matter in a sample of wastewater, expressed in parts per million by weight, that can be oxidized by a strong chemical oxidizing agent. The laboratory determinations shall be made in accordance with procedures set forth in "Standard Methods".

(G) "COLLECTION SYSTEM" shall mean the system of sewers and appurtenances for the collection, transportation and pumping of domestic wastewater and industrial wastes.

(H) "COMBINED SEWER" shall mean a sewer intended to receive both wastewater and storm or surface water.

(I) "DOMESTIC WASTEWATER" shall mean water-borne wastes, normally discharged into the sanitary conveniences of dwellings (including apartment houses and hotels), or office buildings, free of storm and surface water and non-domestic wastes.

(J) "EASEMENT" shall mean an acquired legal right for the specific use of land owned by others.

(K) "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.

(L) "GARBAGE" shall mean the animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and serving foods.

(M) "NATURAL OUTLET" shall mean any outlet, including storm sewers and combined sewer overflows, into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake or other body of surface or ground water.

(N) "NON-DOMESTIC WASTE" shall mean the wastewater from industrial processes, trades or businesses as distinct from domestic wastewater. This includes any potential infectious disease-bearing wastes.

(O) "NORMAL DOMESTIC WASTEWATER" shall mean normal wastewater for the City of Storm Lake in which the average concentration of suspended materials and five (5) day BOD is established at not greater than two hundred (200) parts per million each, by weight. The COD of normal domestic wastewater shall not exceed four hundred (400) parts per million.

(P) "MAY" is permissive (see "shall", subsection [Y]).

(Q) "PARTS PER MILLION" shall mean a weight-to-weight ratio; the parts per million value multiplied by the factor 8.345 shall be equivalent to pounds per million gallons of water. Parts per million and milligrams per liter (Mg/l) shall be synonymous terms.

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

(S) "pH" shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogenion 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 grams and a hydrogenion concentration of 0.000,000,1 grams/liter, or  $10^{-7}$  grams per liter.

(T) "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 inch (1/2") (1.27 centimeters) in any dimension.

(U) "PUBLIC SEWER" shall mean a common sewer controlled by a governmental agency or public utility.

(V) "SANITARY SEWER" shall mean 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.

(W) "SEWAGE" is the spent water of a community. The preferred term is "wastewater", subsection (II).

(X) "SEWER" shall mean a pipe or conduit that carries wastewater or drainage water.

(Y) "SHALL" is mandatory (see "may", subsection [P]).

(Z) "SLUG" shall mean 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.

(AA) "STANDARD METHODS" shall mean the examination and analytical procedures set forth in the latest Edition at the time of the analysis of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" as prepared, approved and published jointly by the American Public Health Association, the Water Pollution Control Federation, and the American Water Works Association.

(BB) "STORM DRAIN" (sometimes termed "storm sewer") shall mean a drain or sewer for conveying water, ground water, subsurface water, or unpolluted water from any source.

(CC) "STORM WATER RUN-OFF" shall mean that portion of the rainfall that is drained into the storm sewers or storm drains.

(DD) "SUMP PUMP" shall mean a pump for disposing of storm drainage.

(EE) "SUPERINTENDENT" shall mean the Superintendent of Wastewater Facilities of the City, or his authorized deputy, agent, or representative.

(FF) "SUSPENDED SOLIDS" shall mean 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 nonfilterable residue.

(GG) "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 benefitted by discharge to the sanitary sewers and wastewater treatment facilities provided.

(HH) "WASTE" as used herein shall be synonymous with wastewater.

(II) "WASTEWATER" shall mean 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 ground water, surface water, and storm water that may be present.

(JJ) "WASTEWATER FACILITIES" shall mean the structures, equipment, and processes required to collect, carry away, and treat domestic and industrial wastes and dispose of the effluent.

(KK) "WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES" shall mean an arrangement of devices and structures for treating wastewater, industrial wastes and sludge. Sometimes used as synonymous with "Waste Treatment Plant" or "Wastewater Treatment Plant" or "Water Pollution Control Plant".

(LL) "WATERCOURSE" shall mean a natural or artificial channel for the passage of water either continuously or intermittently.

### **Section 3-2-2 Use Of Public Sewers Required**

(A) 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 jurisdiction, any human or animal excrement, garbage or objectionable waste.

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

(C) 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 wastewater.

(D) The owner(s) 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 or combined sewer of the City, 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 ninety (90) days after date of official notice to do so, provided that said public sewer is within one hundred feet (100') of the property line.

### **Section 3-2-3 Private Wastewater Disposal**

(A) Where a public sanitary or combined sewer is not available under the provisions of Section 3-2-2(D), the building sewer shall be connected to a private wastewater disposal system complying with the provisions of this Article.

(B) Before commencement of construction of a private wastewater disposal system the owner(s) shall first obtain a written permit issued by the Approving Authority. 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 Approving Authority. A permit and inspection fee, in the amount set by Council Resolution, shall be paid to the City at the time the application is filed.

(C) A permit for a private wastewater disposal system shall not become effective until the installation is completed to the satisfaction of the Approving Authority. The Approving Authority shall be allowed to inspect the work at any stage of construction, and, in any event, the applicant for the permit shall notify the approving authority when the work is ready for final inspection, and before any underground portions are covered. The inspection shall be made within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of notice by the approving authority.

(D) The type, capacities, location and layout of a private wastewater disposal system shall comply with all recommendations of the Department of Public Health of the State of Iowa. No permit shall be issued for any private wastewater disposal system employing subsurface soil absorption facilities where the area of the lot is less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet. No septic tank or cesspool shall be permitted to discharge to any natural outlet.

(E) At such time as a public sewer becomes available within one hundred (100) feet to a property served by a private wastewater disposal system, as provided in Section 3-2-3(D), a direct connection shall be made to the public sewer within sixty (60) days in compliance with this Chapter, and any septic tanks,

cesspools and similar private wastewater disposal facilities shall be cleaned of sludge and filled with suitable material. Cost sharing with the City shall be available to the extent provided in Chapter 7 of this Title.

(F) The owner(s) shall operate and maintain the private wastewater disposal facilities in a sanitary manner at all times, at no expense to the City.

(G) No statement contained in this Article shall be construed to interfere with additional requirements that may be imposed by the Health Officer, or the State of Iowa.

(Ord. No. 289495, Amended, 04/03/95)

(Ord. 12-O-2004-2005, Amended, 12/06/2004)

### **Section 3-2-4 Building Sewers And Connections**

(A) No unauthorized person(s) shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the Approving Authority. The City as Approving Authority shall have the sole discretion to determine and designate the point of connection for every sewer service line to the sewer main and no connection shall be made except at the location so designated.

(B) There shall be two (2) classes of building sewer permits: (a) for residential and commercial service, and (b) for service to establishments producing non-domestic wastes. In either case, the owner(s) or his agent shall make application on a special form furnished by the City. The permit shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the approving authority. A permit and inspection fee, - in the amount set by Council Resolution, shall be paid to the City at the time the application is filed. In addition to the sewer permit, the applicant for a permit shall also pay to the City, at the time the sewer permit is purchased, a sewer connection charge in the amount set by Resolution of the City Council for each sewer connection.

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

(D) 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 rear building drain may be extended to the front 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 aforementioned.

(E) Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test by the Approving Authority, to meet all requirements of this Ordinance.

(F) The size, slope, alignment, materials of construction of a building sewer, 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.

(G) 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 wastewater carried by such building drain shall be lifted by an approved means and discharged to the building sewer.

(H) No person(s) shall make connection of roof downspouts, foundation drains, areaway drains, sump pumps, or other sources of surface run-off or ground water 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 Approving Authority.

(I) The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the Building and Plumbing Code and all other applicable rules and regulations of the City and the sewer service line shall otherwise be constructed in accordance with City specifications. All such connections shall be gas tight and watertight and verified by proper testing. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the Approving Authority before installation.

(J) The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the Approving Authority 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 Approving Authority.

(K) All excavations for building sewer installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Barricades, lights and signing shall be provided by the contractor and shall be placed in accordance with the specifications of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Code Devices then in effect. Streets, sidewalks, parkways, and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the Approving Authority.

(Ord. 12-O-2004-2005, Amended, 12/06/2004)

### **Section 3-2-5 Use Of The Public Sewers**

(A) No person(s) shall discharge or cause to be discharged any unpolluted waters such as storm water, ground water, roof run-off, subsurface drainage, or cooling water to any sewer. Storm water run-off from limited areas, which may be polluted at times, may be discharged to the sanitary sewer by permission of the Approving Authority.

(B) Storm water other than that exempted under Section 3-2-5(A), 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 Approving Authority and other regulatory agencies. Unpolluted industrial cooling water or process waters may be discharged, on approval of the Approving Authority and in accordance with the provisions of State and Federal regulations, to a storm sewer, combined sewer, or natural outlet.

(C) No person(s) shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

1. Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, petroleum-based product or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.
2. 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, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, result in a violation of State or Federal water quality standards, or create any hazard in the wastewater treatment plant or the receiving waters.

3. Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 6.0, or higher than 9.0, or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment and personnel of the wastewater facilities. Exceptions may be granted (by the Approving Authority) for short duration flows where it has been, or can be shown that high or low pH would not cause any significant wastewater facilities problems.
4. 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, bones, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails, paper dishes, cups, milk containers, etc., either whole or after passage through garbage grinder.

(D) The following described substances, materials, waters, or waste shall be limited in discharges to municipal 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 Approving Authority may set limitations lower than the limitations established in the regulations below if in its opinion such more severe limitations are necessary to meet the above objectives. In forming the opinion as to the acceptability, the Approving Authority will give consideration to 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 Approving Authority are as follows:

1. Wastewater having a temperature higher than one hundred fifty degrees (150°) Fahrenheit (65° Celsius).
2. Wastewater containing more than twenty-five (25) milligrams per liter of petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oils, or product of mineral oil origin.
3. Wastewater from industrial plants containing floatable oil, fat or grease.
4. Any garbage that has not been properly shredded (See Section 3-2-1). 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 consumption elsewhere when served by caterers.
5. Any water 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 Approving Authority for such materials.
6. Any waters or wastes containing odor-producing substances exceeding limits which may be established by the Approving Authority.
7. Any radioactive materials of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the Approving Authority, or applicable State and Federal regulations.
8. Quantities of flow, concentrations, or both which constitute a "slug" as defined herein.

9. Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amendable to treatment or reduction by the wastewater treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the wastewater treatment facilities effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.
10. 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.

(E) 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 3-2-5(D), and which in the judgment of the Approving Authority 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 Approving Authority may:

1. Reject the wastes;
2. Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition for discharge to the public sewers;
3. Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge; and/or
4. Require payment to cover added cost of handling and treating the wastes not covered by existing taxes or sewer charges under the provisions of Section 3-2-5(J).

If the Approving Authority permits the pretreatment or equalization of waste flows, the design and installation of the plants and equipment shall be subject to review and approval of the Approving Authority.

(F) Grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be provided when, in the opinion of the Approving Authority, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing floatable grease in excessive amounts, as specified in Section 3-2-5(D)3, 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 Approving Authority, and shall be located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection. In the maintaining of these interceptors the owner(s) shall be responsible for the proper removal and disposal by appropriate means of the captured material and, shall maintain records of the dates and means of disposal which are subject to review by the Approving Authority. Any removal and hauling of the collected materials not performed by owner(s)' personnel must be performed by currently licensed waste disposal firms.

(G) Where pretreatment or flow-equalizing facilities are provided or required for any waters or wastes, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner(s) at the owner's expense.

(H) When required by the Approving Authority, 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 structure, when required, shall be accessibly and safely located and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the Approving Authority. The structure shall be installed by the owner as his/her expense and shall be maintained by the owner so as to be safe and accessible at all times.

(I) All measurements, tests and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made to 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 subject to approval by the Approving Authority.

(J) 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.

### **Section 3-2-6 Destruction; Misuse Of Wastewater Facilities**

No person(s) 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(s) violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest under charge of disorderly conduct.

### **Section 3-2-7 Powers And Authority Of Inspectors**

(A) 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 any public sewer or natural outlet in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

(B) The Approving Authority or other duly authorized employees are authorized to obtain information concerning industrial processes which 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.

(C) While performing the necessary work on private properties referred to in Section 3-2-7(A) above, 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 and growing out of the gauging and sampling operation, except as such may be caused by negligence or failure of the company to maintain safe conditions as required in Section 3-2-5[H]).

(D) 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.

### **Section 3-2-8 Penalties**

(A) Any person found to be violating any provision of this Ordinance except Section 3-3-6 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.

(B) A violation of any of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a Municipal infraction subject to the penalties and alternative relief authorized by Title 1, Chapter 20 of this Code and by Section 364.22 of the Code of Iowa.

(C) 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.

### **Section 3-2-9 Sewer Lines No Longer In Use**

The owner of every lot on which is installed a sewer service line which is, in turn, connected to the City sewer main shall, at the owner's expense, cause the service line to be disconnected and removed from the main in accordance with the City specifications if the building serviced shall be or shall have been previously demolished, removed, damaged beyond repair or abandoned, or if sewer service to the building serviced shall have been permanently discontinued.

### **Section 3-2-10 Users Outside City**

From and after the date and passage of this section, no permit to connect to the City sewer system or any part thereof shall be granted to any applicant to service property located outside the corporate limits of this City unless the property owner shall contractually agree to institute voluntary annexation procedures with regard to the property whenever the property becomes contiguous to the City limits or when requested by the City and providing that the City Council, by a four-fifths (4/5) majority of all members, shall approve such connection as in the best interest of the City. Any extension of the sewer system outside the City limits under this section, including both sewer main and sewer service lines, shall be done at the cost of the property owner requesting such extension.