

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

December 17, 2020

MEMBERS

Chairman Bryant
Alderman Budd
Alderman Lanzotti

ABSENT

Alderman Burtle

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Clerk Lilly
Treasurer Lilly
Superintendent Mann
Kellie Hamell
Alderman Olive
Alderman Dorchinecz
Alderman Driskell
Owen Lasswell

Chairman Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Sewer Tap Ordinance

Following the recommendation at the November 2, 2020 City Council to return the Sewer Tap Ordinance back to the Street and Sewer Committee Committee, the item was sent to the Ordinance Committee as it had been previously discussed by the Ordinance Subcommittee. The Ordinance presented at that meeting reflected changes presented by the Ordinance Subcommittee; the Ordinance was tabled by a roll call vote of the Council due to questions and concerns by several Aldermen. Chairman Bryant submitted modified recommendations to all Aldermen regarding the replacement of wording in Title 8 of section 8-5-4 I of the Taylorville City Code. She requested these modifications be reviewed and adapted. Alderman Dorchinecz presented the history of the process or sewer tap/line repair and the reasoning behind the proposed changes. The current Ordinance has been in place since 2014 and allows the City to reimburse the home owner up to one half of \$3,500.00 in repairs to the service line and tap on the home/business owner's property. The most important concern by the Committee is that of a catastrophic sewer break and the burden it would put on the business or homeowner. The change to the policy would require the City to take more of an active step in repairing issues. It was noted that there is not sufficient staffing in the department to take on additional repair/replacement projects at this time, and the City is not financially able to take on two new full time staff to complete the work. The City is also not able to repair sewers more than 10' deep due to regulatory and safety standards and there are many in the City at this depth. A concern was also raised by the Street and Sewer Superintendent that not all sewers are the same and cannot be treated in a blanket policy; there are many sewers in the City that are running underneath large business buildings. These may be outside the scope of service that the City is able to provide. The question was raised as to who would bear the responsibility for these larger projects. In conclusion, Chairman Bryant requested a motion to forward the proposed modifications to Section 8-5-4 I. to the City Attorney for preparation of a revised Ordinance.

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to direct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance to modify City Code Title 8 of Section 8-5-4 I to include the proposed modifications as presented. The motion carried (2-1).

Any Other Matters

Superintendent Mann noted that the entire section should be updated, not just one section, and should include tap fees and excavation fees as those have also changed. Alderman Olive will add this to the Street and Sewer Committee for further review.

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Budd to adjourn. The motion carried (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 P.M.


Megan Bryant, Chairman
Ordinance Committee

Sewer Tap Ordinance

As you may recall, the city council approved an ordinance change to amend Title 8 of section 8-5-4 I. of the Taylorville city code pertaining to sewer taps. The changes were that the city would be required to pay for repairs on city property (taps, saddles, etc.) with the homeowner responsible for any repairs on their property (sewer lines). The city attorney was directed to prepare an ordinance to amend Title 8 of section 8-5-4 I to reflect these changes. The city attorney made the recommended changes and presented the amended ordinance changes to the city council to vote on its approval. The city council discussed the ordinance wording and decided to table the motion to pass it and send it back to the ordinance committee for suggested wording changes to make it clearer. I have reviewed section 8-5-4 I and am suggesting that all of section 8-5-4 I be replaced with the following wording.

I. Liability of Property Owner:

1. All costs and expenses incident to the initial installation of the property owner's building service line and connection (tap on) of the property owner's service line to the city's public sewer system (trunk line) shall be borne and paid for by the property owner. Such initial installation and connection work shall be performed by an Illinois Licensed Plumber; and all such installation and connection work must be performed by an Illinois licensed plumber and approved to the satisfaction of the city street and sewer superintendent or his designee. The city shall provide the "saddle tap" for the connection (tap on) of the property owner's service line to the city's public sewer system (trunk line); and any "Y" tap must be separated from the city's public sewer system (trunk line).
2. The property owner shall be solely responsible and liable for the expenses, maintenance, repair and/or replacement of the property owner's building service line to the extent any such maintenance, repair and/or replacement work is located within the property owner's property boundary lines (excluding any city right of way or easement boundary lines). Such repair work shall be performed by an Illinois Licensed Plumber. Any maintenance, repair and/or replacement work that is done to the city's tap onto the city's trunk line must be done by the city workers or an Illinois Licensed Plumber and that any work completed on the tap must be inspected and approved to the satisfaction of the city street and sewer superintendent or his designee.
3. The city shall repair and/or replace such portion of the city's public sewer system (trunk line) and/or the sewer tap and/or such portion of the property owner's service line that is located within the city's right of way or easement. The city shall also repair such portion of the city's public sewer system (but not the property owner's service line) that is located within the property owner's boundary lines. The city's street and sewer superintendent or his delegate or his designee shall determine at his or her sole discretion the reasonableness and necessity and the nature and extent of any such repair or replacement work to protect and maintain and avoid any further damage to the city's public sewer system.