

ORDINANCE NO. 041, 2026
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
ADOPTING THE FORT COLLINS UTILITIES
WATER AND WASTEWATER DESIGN CRITERIA MANUAL

A. The City owns and operates Fort Collins Utilities, which includes a water utility and a wastewater utility.

B. Section 26-29(a) of the City Code states that the Utilities Executive Director shall promulgate Water Utilities Development Construction Standards, which shall constitute standard specifications governing the depth, size, slope, alignment, materials or construction of, among other things, water and wastewater fixtures, lines and other improvements, as well as the methods to be used in the excavation, placement, joining, testing, trenching and backfilling, and such other technical specifications as may apply to construction of water and wastewater infrastructure.

C. Section 26-29(a) of the City Code further states that said specifications shall be effective upon approval by the City Council by ordinance, will have the same force and effect as provisions of Chapter 26 of the City Code, and shall be enforceable pursuant to the terms of Chapter 26 of the City Code and as provided in Section 1-15 of the City Code.

D. Section 26-29(a)-(b) of the City Code states that the Utilities Executive Director may administratively adopt minor additions, revisions and corrections to the Water Utilities Development Construction Standards as may, in the judgment of the Utilities Executive Director, be necessary to better conform to good engineering and/or construction standards and practice, provided that the Utilities Executive Director shall approve only those proposed technical revisions that: are consistent with all existing policies relevant to the revisions, do not result in any significant additional cost to persons affected by the revision, and do not materially alter the standard or level of service to be accomplished through the specified infrastructure.

E. Section 26-29(b) of the City Code further states that, upon adoption of any technical revisions pursuant to the authority of that subsection, the Utilities Executive Director shall provide to the City Clerk documentation of such technical revisions specifying the date upon which they shall become effective, and shall maintain said documentation on file in the permanent records of the City Clerk and Utility Services and available for public inspection.

F. Section 26-52 of the City Code states that the Utilities Executive Director may promulgate such rules, regulations, policies and procedures consistent with the provisions of Article III of Chapter 26 of the City Code as the Utilities Executive Director may deem necessary for the proper administration of the water utility and the requirements of Article III of Chapter 26 of the City Code, including the establishment of standard specifications for construction of service lines and other technical specifications as provided in Section 26-29 of the City Code.

G. Section 26-52 of the City Code further states such rules and regulations are effective upon the approval by the City Council by ordinance and will have the same force and effect as provisions of Chapter 26 of the City Code, and shall be enforceable pursuant to the terms of Chapter 26 of the City Code and as provided in Section 1-15 of the City Code, and that a user's failure to abide by all effective rules, regulations, policies and procedures promulgated by the Utilities Executive Director is the same as a violation of Article III of Chapter 26 of the City Code.

H. Through Ordinance No. 57, 2017, City Council approved the *Fort Collins Utilities Water and Wastewater Design Criteria Manual* ("2017 Manual") pursuant to Sections 26-29 and 26-52 of the City Code.

I. Wastewater from the majority of the service area of the wastewater utility is and can be delivered to the treatment works by gravity. However, there are certain areas of the existing and potential future service area of the wastewater utility where lift stations may be needed to deliver wastewater to the treatment works. There are currently no lift stations that are part of the wastewater utility.

J. City staff have completed a comprehensive review of lift stations and the standards that should be applied to them in order to benefit ratepayers of the wastewater utility and for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Fort Collins.

K. City Staff have prepared various amendments and updates to the 2017 Manual, including those regarding lift stations. Such updates and amendments and updates are set forth in the *Fort Collins Utilities Water and Wastewater Design Criteria Manual* ("Manual"), attached hereto as Exhibit A, pursuant to Sections 26-29 and 26-52 of the City Code.

L. City staff and the Water Commission recommend that the Manual be adopted by City Council.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby approves the Manual pursuant to Sections 26-29 and 26-52 of the City Code.

Section 2. The Utilities Executive Director may administratively adopt minor additions, revisions and corrections to the water service-related provisions of the Manual pursuant to Section 26-29(b) of the City Code, or any successor sections.

Section 3. All previous versions of the Manual, including the 2017 Manual, shall have no further effect.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on April 7, 2026, and approved on second reading for final passage on April 21, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: May 1, 2026

Approving Attorney: Eric Potyondy

Exhibit: Exhibit A - Fort Collins Utilities Water and Wastewater Design Criteria Manual