

ORDINANCE NO. 040, 2026  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
AMENDING SECTIONS 26-206, 26-260, AND 26-287 OF THE  
CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS REGARDING  
WASTEWATER LIFT STATIONS

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

B. Wastewater from the majority of the service area of the wastewater utility is and can be delivered to the treatment works by a gravity system. 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.

C. 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.

D. City staff thereafter prepared certain amendments to City Code pertaining to lift stations. City staff and the Water Commission recommend that City Council make certain amendments to City Code regarding lift stations as stated herein.

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. Section 26-206 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended by the addition of a new definition "*Lift station*" which reads in its entirety as follows:

**Sec. 26-206. Defintions.**

...

*Lift station* shall mean a wastewater pumping station, including any force mains and associated appurtenances, that accumulates wastewater at a low point or the perimeter of the collection system and pumps it to a continuation of the system at a higher elevation or to the treatment works.

...

Section 2. Section 26-260 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby amended to read as follows:

## Sec. 26-260. Lift stations and force mains.

- (a) Except as provided for in this section, all areas receiving wastewater service from the City shall be served by a gravity system pursuant to the Fort Collins Utilities Water and Wastewater Design Criteria Manual approved pursuant to § 26-29 and § 26-52. The Utilities Executive Director may determine that a lift station is required for areas where a gravity system is not reasonably feasible.
- (ab) The City is hereby authorized to cause surveys, or engineering studies, or other investigations to be made for the purpose of determining those areas either within or without the City which would require or benefit from the installation and operation of lift stations to accumulate wastewater at low points or the perimeter of the collection system and pump it to a continuation of the system at a higher elevation or to the treatment works. The lift station areas may include areas outside the City which might by annexation become a part of the City or which might require wastewater services from the City for the purpose of preserving the health and welfare of City residents adjacent to such areas.
- (bc) When the Utilities Executive Director determines that a lift station and force mains are is required for an area because of development within the lift station area, the cost of their construction is entirely the responsibility of the owners of the property to be served. If only a part of a lift station area is initially developed, the utility may require that the developer install a lift station and force mains of sufficient capacity to serve the entire area. The City will pay the additional cost mutually agreed to be attributable to the oversizing requirement and collect a front foot or other proportionate charge from property owners or developers connecting to lines served by the lift station. Such assessment shall be paid at the time of issuance of the sewer connection permit.
- (ed) All lift stations shall be planned, designed, and constructed pursuant to the Fort Collins Utilities Water and Wastewater Design Criteria Manual approved pursuant to § 26-29 and § 26-52, and in accordance with all applicable City, state, and federal laws. The portion of the wastewater system requiring lift stations and force mains shall be designed whenever possible to permit an eventual connection into a gravity system with a minimum of additional expense. Where practicable, property owners shall provide easements and construct lines to tie into the gravity system. Where the Utilities Executive Director deems necessary, the City may require deposits from the property owners requiring the force system to pay for the eventual construction of gravity lines.
- (de) ~~Lift stations are part of the wastewater utility. When lift stations and force mains have been installed pursuant to the requirements of the utility and have been inspected and accepted by the City, then they shall become the~~

property of the wastewater utility.—The terms *lift station* as used in this Section does not include individual lift facilities prescribed in Subsection 26-258(c).

Section 3. Section 26-287 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins is hereby deleted in its entirety and held in reserve.

**Sec. 26.287 Surcharge for lift stations. Reserved.**

~~Users connected to public sewers served by a wastewater lift station may be subject to a monthly surcharge to cover the cost of operating and maintaining the lift station for their benefit.~~

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

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Effective Date: May 1, 2026  
Approving Attorney: Eric Potyondy

Exhibit: None