



**City Council Agenda
September 18, 2025**

Ordinance

Action Item

Agenda Description:

Discuss, consider, and possible action on approving an ordinance amending Chapter 13, “Utilities,” Article 13.03 “Sewage Disposal,” to Add Provisions Related to Water Wells and Modify Septic Tank Distance Regulations. (Staff Resource: A. Maldonado).

Background Information:

The City of Joshua currently prohibits the placement of septic systems within 150 feet of an existing public sewer line, and does not include any provisions regarding the regulation or permissibility of private water wells within city limits. Given ongoing development pressures, rising utility impact fees charged, and increasing requests for septic and well flexibility, staff and legal counsel have reviewed potential amendments to Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances.

The proposed ordinance aims to balance public health and infrastructure goals with practical development needs, particularly in areas where utility access is limited or cost-prohibitive.

Summary:

The proposed ordinance:

- **Amends Section 13.03.001 (Lawful Methods of Disposal):**
 - Maintains the 150-foot buffer requirement between septic tanks and sewer lines **but allows exceptions** to be granted by City Council.
 - Exceptions may be considered where undue hardship exists due to location, topography, soil conditions, or cost-related issues.
- **Adds Division 3 – “Water Wells”:**
 - Prohibits the construction, modification, or sealing of a water well within city limits unless the applicant has a valid permit issued under rules and regulations promulgated by the State of Texas.
 - Aligns with Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District’s (PGCD) oversight but reserves the ability for local enforcement or additional review, if pursued in the future.
- **Renames Article 13.03:**

- From “Sewage Disposal” to “Sewage Disposal; Water Wells” to reflect the expanded regulatory scope.

City Contact and Recommendations:

Aaron Maldonado

Assistant City Manager

Staff recommends approval of the attached ordinance.

Attachments:

- 1.** Joshua Ordinance Connection to Sewer and Water Wells