

**Brook Brown: My comments on wastewater connection proposal and proposed survey**

The proposed changes retain the current grinder pump replacement policy, which is discretionary based on city budgeting, has benefits for both the City and residents.

Pumps: The City's replacement of these pumps has cost efficiencies for both the resident and the City. The city can switch out a failed pump with a replacement pump that meets city specs, ensuring uniformity in pumps and efficiency in operation of the city's wastewater lines. It allows the city to inspect the existing resident connection, including the backflow device and pump blades, to ensure that what is in place and what is passed to the city's lines won't cause clogging or unnecessary maintenance to the city lift stations. The City's maintenance of the pump and inspection of the resident system also allows the city to enforce the flushing prohibition, with cost savings to the city in reduced maintenance of its systems and lift stations. The practice of replacing a failed pump with an on-hand replacement pump is efficient in getting the customer system back in service, is cost efficient as compared to the resident having to replace a failed pump with a new pump in that the failed pump can be rehabbed instead of replaced with a new pump. Handling these outages efficiently also reduces the possibility of a spill that would require TCEQ cleanup obligations.

Double-check valve: The double-check valve requirement can be costly (@\$2,000) but protects the homeowner in the event a lift station fails causing a back up to the home. Also, the double check valve helps in the case of such wastewater spill to control the extent of the spill, and any resulting TCEQ cleanup requirements.

**Proposed survey:** In connection with the proposed survey of existing pumps by Crossroads, the City can get a handle on the number of existing grinder pumps, the expected life of those pumps, to get an assessment of the costs of future replacement obligations, budget impacts, and any recommended maintenance practices that would benefit the city and homeowner.