

City Council Members and Staff,

We bought our home in August of 1998 at 7022 East Loop Rd. At that time, public sewer was not available to us. There was talk that it may be coming sometime in the future, but city officials had no idea when. We have had many conversations with the previous City Manager Mary Ann Duncan-Cole, Ben Schumaker, and Leana Kinley. We were always told the same thing: that as long as our septic system was properly maintained and functional, we would not be required to hook up to city sewer when and if it became available.

In 2012, we added a bathroom to our home, remodeled our kitchen, and replaced all the old galvanized plumbing. Once again, we went to the city to inquire about city sewer. We had the original septic system and thought that since we were adding a bathroom and remodeling, this would be the time to hook up to city sewer if available. Still, no word on when or if it would be coming.

We opted to replace and upgrade our septic system. We had Mark Peterson design an oversized system. Kurt Russell from Stabler Backhoe installed it. We went through the permit process with the county and the City of Stevenson. Both of them signed off and approved the septic system plan. All of this was at great cost to us.

Fast forward to January 2022, we received a certified letter from the City of Stevenson stating that city sewer was coming up Loop Road. If we wanted to hook up, it would cost \$17,169.01 and an additional fee of \$6,168 for a system development charge. (I was told at the open house on April 10th that the fee has actually gone up.) I reached out to Leana and let her know that we had a functioning system that was only a few years old and we were not interested in city sewer. Again, we were told that as long as our system was functioning, we would not be required to hook up to city sewer.

At the Open House on April 10th, I reviewed the Sewer Plan Draft. I have a few areas of concern. You are proposing to charge all of us a "penalty" for not hooking up to city sewer, up to the amount of the monthly sewer fee, which is currently \$140 monthly and will probably go up, as it has every year. The definition of penalty is "a punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract." None of us homeowners have done anything wrong. I feel that what you're doing is unethical. It would cost me approximately \$50K to hook up to city sewer. Why would I do that? I have already spent thousands of dollars to replace our septic system that is fully functional and operational. It makes no sense to me that you are proposing to charge us a "penalty" for not using something that we do not want or need.

There is also the fee for the System Development Charge, as I understood it, which is basically a lien that will be placed on my home. It would need to be paid if my home was sold or transferred. Again, why am I paying for something that I don't need or want? Another question I have is whether this fee will go up. It already has since I received the letter from the city in 2022.

I appreciate that you have expanded the sewer system and made it available to those who want or need it. We had asked for it for years, and it was not available. I don't feel that homeowners should be penalized for not utilizing it if we don't need it.

Respectfully,

Robert and Rose Wertheimer