



Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Re: City Sewer Ordinance

Dave Cox <dave.cox@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 10:55 AM

To: John Prescott <jpprescott@yahoo.com>, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Leana,
Would you include this email from John Prescott in the public comments for the upcoming Council meeting?
Thanks
Dave

Dave Cox

On Wed, Aug 30, 2023 at 14:44 John Prescott <jpprescott@yahoo.com> wrote:

August 30, 2023

Dear Council Member Cox,

As a resident of the City of Stevenson, I have significant concerns regarding the proposed modification to the City Sewer Ordinance. The proposed changes were highlighted in a recent mailer from the City and the City Council August 24, 2023 agenda materials.

As a property owner who has invested in and utilizes a private septic system I believe that any change to the Sewer Ordinance should impact sewer connection requirements for future users and not change the rules for existing systems. The proposed changes could have huge financial impacts to some citizens.

I would appreciate the Council considering a modified "grandfather" clause for property owners who currently utilize a private septic system which complies with all applicable laws and codes. The clause would allow the continued use of compliant septic systems but also create a path for future connection to the City sewer system. I used the term "modified" since there should be a reasonable path for a private septic system owner to eventually connect to the City sewer system in a cost-effective manner as the City builds-out its system.

Also, any modification to the City Sewer Ordinance must comply with Section 35.21.940 of the RCW which refers to "cost-prohibitive" considerations.

Below is some suggested language for the Council to consider which may be an acceptable compromise.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Let me know if you want to come to our property to see how the proposed modification could have huge financial impacts to us and similarly situated property owners. Thank you for listening.

Respectfully,

John Prescott

1001 NW Kaspar Rd

Stevenson, WA 98648

Suggested language...

13.08.070 Connection with public sewer required— and Appeal procedure.

A. Subject to the provisions stated in this section 13.08, the owner of any dwelling used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes situated on property within the city and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is located a public sanitary sewer of the city, is required at their own expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein and to connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer, either by gravity or with approved pumping facilities, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and the Stevenson Engineering Standards, within 90 days after the date of official notice to do so; provided, that such public sewer is available at the property or within 100 feet of the property and an easement to the public sewer exists, or the property is located within the Urban Reserve, as designated on in the City of Stevenson Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map.

B. If an owner has an existing private sewage system on their property and such system was operational prior to (moratorium date??) and that system is in compliance with applicable laws and codes, that owner shall not be required to connect to the public sanitary sewer but shall have an owner option to connect to the public sewer at the owner's expense or continue to utilize their private sewer system.

13.08.120 Private system—Construction—Permit required—Application.

A. Before commencement of construction, expansion, or replacement of a private sewage disposal system the owner shall first obtain a written permit signed by the director. This section does not apply to any repair of an existing system. The application for such permit shall be made on a form furnished by the city, which the applicant shall supplement by any plans, specifications and other information as are deemed necessary by the director. The appropriate permit and plan check fee shall be paid to the city at the time the application is filed.

B. No permit to construct, expand, or replace a private sewage disposal system shall be issued where:

1. Public sewer is available at or on the property and the cost to connect to the public sewer is not prohibitive defined as more than 50% of the cost to replace or expand a private sewage system that was operational prior to (moratorium date??), or
2. Public sewer is located within 100 feet of the property and an easement to the public sewer exists and the cost to connect to the public sewer is not prohibitive defined as more than 50% of the cost to replace or expand a private sewage system that was operational prior to (moratorium date??) ,or
3. The property lies within an area designated as Urban Reserve on the City of Stevenson Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map the cost to connect to the public sanitary sewer system is not prohibitive defined as more than 50% of the cost to replace or expand a private sewage system that was operational prior to (moratorium date??).