

07/15/2026

Please include these comments in the 07/16/2026 Council Meeting Packet

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council members,

I would like to thank the council and mayor for their ongoing efforts to improve the sewer ordinance. The Council has endeavored to address public concerns with the wording of the ordinance.

Based on my reading of the recently updated sewer ordinance and redline version added today it does not appear that the revision directives brought forward during Council discussion have been clearly incorporated. Indeed, if anything the ability for currently affected property owners with functioning OSS to maintain and repair their systems has been further restricted. I urge the Council and City Management to review the online Vimeo recording of the June 18, 2026 Council Meeting sewer ordinance discussion as reference to what Council members and the public actually said.

It seems that the table in Section 13.08.070-1 under Existing Developments continues to disallow any "alterations" including "replacement, expansion, extension, resizing or relocation" of the OSS. At the last meeting Council agreed that if the County Health Department would require and approve such repairs to an existing OSS property (ex. extending or increasing drain field) such repairs should be allowed. In the table under

Item number "3" in the notes portion of the table remains confusing. At the last meeting Council agreed that if the County Health official would approve of such repairs for continued safe OSS operation for said property it should be allowed.

Section 13.08.070 Section C OSS Failure continues to preclude repairs other than a band aid. Council Members have repeatedly concurred that the City Works Department does not want to be in the business of assessing or dictating OSS failures or County Health (or lead jurisdiction agency) approved repairs. However, the current revised ordinance actually solidifies and determines restrictions on functioning OSS properties captured by City initiated sewer extensions. I hope the Council will clarify and reconfirm its directives for a clearly written unambiguous ordinance that defers decisions about repairs to current OSS systems with sewer available to the County Health Officer or agency with jurisdiction. I also wish to point out an omission from the redline version to the packet revised ordinance. In the redlined draft, under §13.08.070(B) Exceptions, there was an exception reading "Any lot with a currently working and approved OSS, which was approved by the county or the state health official prior to the adoption of this chapter." That exception is gone in the clean version. That should be reinstated.

I hope the City Council will make clear to Mr. Muth that its intent is to make it clear and unambiguous that current OSS owners have all rights and responsibilities of other OSS owners as mandated by the County Health Officer other than in the case the County Health Officer determines the OSS has failed to an irreparable level. The current revision fails to do so and should not be approved as written.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brian McNamara