



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Laurel L. Prussing and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** William R. Gray, Public Works Director  
Gale L. Jamison, Assistant City Engineer  
Bradley M. Bennett, Civil Engineer  
**DATE:** February 18, 2010  
**RE:** City Policy Regarding Private Sanitary Sewer Ownership

### Introduction

The Engineering Division presented a memo in August 2009 to the Committee of the Whole reviewing the City's policy on private sanitary sewers. A potential modification to existing policy was also examined in an attempt to ease the financial burden for property owners that want the City to assume ownership of their private sanitary sewers that serve two or more properties. The Committee of the Whole directed the Engineering Division to prepare an ordinance (attached) to modify the existing policy on private sanitary sewers.

It is recommended that the City policy regarding private sanitary sewer ownership be as follows:

- The City would assume ownership of a private sanitary sewer after the City completed the necessary infrastructure upgrades on the sewer to meet the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) publicly owned sanitary sewer standards. Private sanitary sewers eligible for conversion to a public sanitary sewer would have to serve two or more properties and be prioritized based on the following criteria:
  - a. Private sanitary sewers experiencing back-up problems
  - b. Private sanitary sewers where street resurfacing or reconstruction projects are planned
  - c. Private sanitary sewers located in public right-of-way
- Property owners would be responsible for providing the City an easement before a private sanitary sewer would be eligible for conversion to a public sanitary sewer. All property owners would have to provide easements before the City would assume ownership of a private sanitary sewer.
- The property owners would not be responsible for any costs for upgrading their private sanitary sewer lateral to a public sewer.

**Fiscal Impact**

Infrastructure upgrades to the private sanitary sewers would be funded utilizing \$25,000 of sanitary sewer repair and rehabilitation funds specifically set aside for private sanitary sewers. These funds would be generated by the Sewer Benefit Tax. No increase in the Sewer Benefit Tax is required to fund the change in private sanitary sewer ownership policy.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that an Ordinance to adopt a Private to Public Sanitary Sewer Conversion Program be approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-02-016

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A PRIVATE TO PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER  
CONVERSION PROGRAM

**WHEREAS**, the City of Urbana (hereinafter, "City"), an Illinois municipal corporation, has a population in excess of 25,000 and is a home rule entity pursuant to Article 7, §6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois and 65 ILCS 5/1-1-10; and

**WHEREAS**, there are some older neighborhoods in the City which contain two or more properties served by one private sanitary sewers lines; and

**WHEREAS**, City code no longer allows private sanitary sewer lines serving more than one property and requires each property to have its own service lateral which connects directly from each property to a public sanitary sewer; and

**WHEREAS**, it is, logistically and financially, difficult for private property owners to maintain and service private sewer lines;

**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** The creation of a program for the conversion of private sanitary sewers to public sewers is hereby authorized. The City shall assume ownership of private sanitary sewers which have undergone necessary infrastructure upgrade; serve two or more properties; and have been designated as priorities per the Department of Public Works criteria.

The selection of the sewers to be converted shall be at the sole discretion of the Director of Public Works and subject to the limits of the annual budget appropriation for the program, as well as the criteria enumerated in a policy to be promulgated by the Department of Public Works.

**Section 2.** The effective date of this Ordinance shall be July 1, 2010.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

AYES:  
NAYS:  
PRESENT:

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Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

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LAUREL LUNT PRUSSING  
Mayor