

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

09-0487R

RESOLUTION ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR THE PRIVATE SEWER SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM.

CITY PROPOSAL:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 471.342, the guidelines for the private sewer service grant program, a copy of which are on file in the office of the city clerk as Public Document No. _____ are hereby adopted and approved.

Approved:

Approved for presentation to council:

Department Director

Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

Approved:

Attorney

Auditor

PW&U/ATTY REA:cjk 7/21/2009

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to approve the guidelines for the city's private sanitary sewer service grant program.

The city has been attempting to deal with the inflow and infiltration of clear water into the city's sanitary sewer system for many years. Not only does it unnecessarily add to the cost of providing treatment to the sanitary sewage generated in the city but also has led to overloading of the city's sanitary sewer mains during periods of heavy precipitation, which has in turn led to discharges of untreated sewage into lake superior.

While existing City programs to encourage disconnection of footing and foundation drains and the installation of sump pumps to divert unpolluted water from those sources into the storm sewer system, and the maintenance and repair of the city's sanitary sewer mains themselves have helped, it has been determined that leaking private sanitary sewer service lines owned by the owners of the property served by them and which these owners are responsible to maintain, is a major source of such clear water infiltration and must be repaired or replaced.

As the anticipated cost of repairing, replacing or lining each such service is anticipated to be between \$4,000 and \$8,000, the correction of all of the services requiring this work is expected to be significant for the homeowners who will have to bear the cost.

In order to ease the burden on homeowners, the city is proposing to exercise its authority under Minnesota Statutes 471.342 and offer a grant (generally) of 80 percent of the cost of repairing, replacing or lining those sanitary service lines found to be contributing significant amounts of clear water to the sanitary sewer system, up to a maximum amount of \$4,000. When the public works and utility department has identified such a service via closed circuit television during an actual or simulated significant precipitation event, the owner will be sent a notice to repair, replace or line the identified service line and at the same time will be sent a notice of eligibility for the city's grant program. If the owner then applies for a grant, follows the program procedure and makes the necessary repairs, he or she will be able to apply for a reimbursement grant in the amount of 80 percent of his or her costs, up to \$4,000.

The remaining amount will be the responsibility of the owner. The city is presently working with local lenders to develop a loan program at advantageous rates to assist the owners in funding the remainder of the costs.

In addition, the grant program will be available on a modified basis to home owners who have not been identified by the department but who are contributing clear water to the sanitary sewer system, who are located in a sanitary sewer basin which is in need of remediation and who volunteer to participate.