

ORDINANCE NO. 581

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SEWERS AND DRAINS, PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL, THE INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF BUILDING SEWERS, AND THE DISCHARGE OF WATERS AND WASTES INTO THE PUBLIC SEWER SYSTEM(S): AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF; IN THE CITY OF GOTHENBURG, COUNTY OF DAWSON, STATE OF NEBRASKA.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOTHENBURG, STATE OF NEBRASKA AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this ordinance shall be as follows:

Section 1. "BOD" (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20 degrees C, expressed in milligrams per liter.

Section 2. "Building Drain" shall mean that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five (5) feet (1.5 meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.

Section 3. "Building Sewer" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal.

MLB:lccity179

Section 4. "Combined Sewer" shall mean a sewer receiving both surface runoff and sewage.

Section 5. "Garbage" shall mean solid wastes from the domestic and commercial preparation, cooking and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage and sale of produce.

Section 6. "Industrial Wastes" shall mean the liquid wastes from industrial manufacturing processes, trade, or business as distinct from sanitary sewage.

Section 7. "Natural Outlet" shall mean any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or groundwater.

Section 8. "Person" shall mean any individual, firm, company, association, society, corporation, or group.

Section 9. "pH" shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.

Section 10. "Properly Shredded Garbage" shall mean the wastes from the preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particle greater than one-half (1/2) inch (1.27 centimeters) in any dimension.

Section 11. "Public Sewer" shall mean a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights, and is controlled by public authority.

Section 12. "Sanitary Sewer" shall mean a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and groundwaters are not intentionally admitted.

Section 13. "Sewage" shall mean a combination of the water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface and stormwaters as may be present.

Section 14. "Sewage Treatment Plant" shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.

Section 15. "Sewage Works" shall mean all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating and disposing of sewage.

Section 16. "Sewer" shall mean a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.

Section 17. "Shall" is mandatory; "May" is permissive.

Section 18. "Slug" shall mean any discharge of water, sewage, or industrial waste which in concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow exceeds for any period of duration longer than fifteen (15) minutes more than five (5) times the average twenty-four (24) hour concentration or flows during normal operation.

Section 19. "Storm Drain" (sometimes termed "storm sewer") shall mean a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage, but excludes sewage and industrial wastes, other than unpolluted cooling water.

Section 20. "City Administrator" shall mean the City Administrator of the City of Gothenburg, or his authorized deputy, agent, or representative.

Section 21. "Suspended Solids" shall mean solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids, and which are removable by laboratory filtering.

Section 22. "Watercourse" shall mean a channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.

Section 23. "Responsible Person" shall mean:

- a. Owner.
- b. President.
- c. Manager.
- d. Stockholder owning 25% or more of the company.
- e. Partner of the company.
- f. Supervisor.
- g. Any employee of the company having knowledge of the discharges.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within the City of Gothenburg, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said, any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectionable waste.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful to discharge to any natural outlet within the City of Gothenburg, or in any area under the jurisdiction of said City, any sewage or other polluted waters, except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this ordinance.

Section 3. Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.

Section 4. The owner of all houses, buildings, or properties used for human employment, recreation, or other purposes, situated within the City and abutting on any street, alley, or right-of-way in which there is now located or may in the future be located a public sanitary or combined sewer of the

City, is hereby required at his expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, within ninety (90) days after date of official notice to do so, provided that said public sewer is within one hundred feet (100') (30.5 meter) of the property line.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. Where a public sanitary or combined sewer is not available under the provisions of Article II, Section 4, the building sewer shall be connected to a private sewage disposal system complying with Title 124 provisions of other Nebraska Department of Environmental Control regulations and this article.

Section 2. Before commencement of construction of a private sewage disposal system for a single residential dwelling, the owner shall first obtain a written permit signed by the City Administrator. The application for such permit shall be made on a form furnished by the City, which the applicant shall supply plans, materials utilized, soil seepage rates, and other information as are deemed necessary by the City Administrator. A permit and inspection fee shall be paid to the City at the time the application is filed in an amount established by resolution by the City Council.

Section 3. Before commencement of construction of a private sewage disposal system for anything other than a single residential dwelling, the owner shall obtain written approval of plans, specifications and necessary operational permits from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control. A copy of approved plans, specifications and operational permit shall be submitted

to the City Administrator for application of a permit. A permit and inspection fee shall be paid to the City at the time the application is filed in an amount established by resolution of the City Council.

Section 4. Usage of a private sewage disposal system shall not become effective until the installation is completed to the satisfaction of the City Administrator. He shall be allowed to inspect the work at any stage of construction and, in any event, the applicant for the permit shall notify the City Administrator when the work is ready for final inspection, and before any underground portions are covered. The inspection shall be made within 8 hours of the receipt of notice by the City Administrator.

Section 5. The type, capacities, location, and layout of a private sewage disposal system shall comply with all regulations of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control. No septic tank or cesspool shall be permitted to discharge to any natural outlet.

Section 6. At such time as a public sewer becomes available to a property served by a private sewage disposal system, as provided in Article III, Section 4, a direct connection shall be made to the public sewer in compliance with this ordinance, and any septic tanks, cesspools, and similar private sewage disposal facilities shall be abandoned and filled with suitable material.

Section 7. The owner shall operate and maintain the private sewage disposal facilities in a sanitary manner at all times, at no expenses to the City.

Section 8. No statement contained in this article shall be construed to interfere with any additional requirements that may be imposed by the City Administrator.

Section 9. When a public sewer becomes available, the building sewer shall be connected to said sewer within sixty (60) days and the private sewage disposal system shall be cleaned of sludge and filled with clean bank-run gravel or dirt.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. No unauthorized person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the City Administrator.

Section 2. There shall be two (2) classes of building sewer permits: (a) for residential and commercial service, and (b) for service to establishments producing industrial wastes. In either case, the owner or his agent shall make application on a special form furnished by the City. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications, or other information considered pertinent in the judgment of the City Administrator. A separate permit and inspection fee for a residential and commercial building sewer permit and for an industrial building sewer permit shall be paid to the City at the time the application is filed, in an amount established by resolution of the City Council.

Section 3. All costs and expense incident to the installation and connection of the building sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the City from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the building sewer.

Section 4. A separate and independent building sewer shall be provided for every building; except where one building stands at the rear of another on an interior lot and no private sewer is available or can be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining alley, court yard, or driveway, the building sewer from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole considered as one building sewer.

Section 5. Old building sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test by the City Administrator, to meet all requirements of this ordinance.

Section 6. The size, slope, alignment, materials or construction of a building sewer, and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of the pipe, jointing, testing and backfilling the trench, shall all conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the City. In the absence of code provisions or in amplification thereof, the materials and procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and W.P.C.F. Manual of Practice No. 9 shall apply.

Section 7. Whenever possible, the building sewer shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. In all buildings in which any building drain is too low to permit gravity flow to the public sewer, sanitary sewer carried by such building drain shall be lifted by an approved means and discharged to the building sewer.

Section 8. No person shall make connection of roof downspouts, interior and exterior foundation drains, areaway

drains, or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

Section 9. The connection of the building sewer into the public sewer shall conform to the requirements of the building and plumbing code or other applicable rules and regulations of the City, or the procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the A.S.T.M. and the W.P.C.F. Manual of Practice No. 9. All such connections shall be made gastight and watertight. Any deviation from the prescribed procedures and materials must be approved by the City Administrator before installation.

Section 10. The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the City Administrator when the building sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection shall be made under the supervision of the City Administrator or his representative.

Section 11. All excavations for building sewer installation shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways, and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the City.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, including interior and exterior foundation drains, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer.

Section 2. Stormwater and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as combined sewers or storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the City Administrator. Industrial cooling water or unpolluted process waters may be discharged on approval of the City Administrator, to a storm sewer, combined sewer, or natural outlet.

Section 3. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

(a) Any gasoline, benzene, naphta, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid, or gas.

(b) Any waters or wastes containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids, or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant, including but not limited to cyanides in excess of two (2) mg/l as CN in the wastes as discharged to the public sewer.

(c) Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5, or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, and personnel of the sewage works.

(d) Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage works such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails and paper dishes, cups, mild containers, etc., either whole or ground by garbage grinders.

Section 4. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged the following described substances, materials, waters, or wastes if it appears likely in the opinion of the City Administrator that such wastes can harm either the sewers, sewage

treatment process, or equipment, have an adverse effect on the receiving stream, or can otherwise endanger life, limb, public property, or constitute a nuisance. In forming his opinion as to the acceptability of these wastes, the City Administrator will give consideration to such factors as the quantities of subject wastes in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, nature of the sewage treatment process, capacity of the sewage treatment plant, degree of treatability of wastes in the sewage treatment plant, and other pertinent factors. The substances prohibited are:

(a) Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than one hundred fifty (150) degree F (65 degrees C).

(b) Any water or wastes containing fats, wax, grease or oils, whether emulsified or not, in excess of one hundred (100) mg/l or containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between thirty-two (32) and one hundred fifty (150) degrees F (o and 65 degrees C).

(c) Any garbage that has not been properly shredded. The installation and operation of any garbage grinder equipped with a motor of three-fourths ($3/4$) horsepower (0.76 hp metric) or greater shall be subject to the review and approval of the City Administrator.

(d) Any waters or wastes containing strong acid iron pickling wastes, or concentrated plating solutions whether neutralized or not.

(e) Any wastes or wastes containing iron, chromium, copper, zinc, and similar objectionable and toxic substances; or wastes exerting an excessive chlorine requirement, to such degree that any such material received in the composite sewage at the sewage treatment works exceeds the limits established by the City Administrator for such materials.

(f) Any waters or wastes containing phenols or other taste or odor-producing substances, in such concentrations exceeding limits which may be established by the City Administrator as necessary after treatment of the composite sewage, to meet the requirements of State, Federal, or other public agencies of jurisdiction for such discharge to the receiving waters.

(g) Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the City Administrator in compliance with applicable State or Federal regulations.

(h) Any waters or wastes having a pH in excess of (9.5).

(i) Materials which exert or cause:

(1) Unusual concentrations of inert suspended solids (such as, but not limited to, Fullers earth, lime slurries, and lime residues) or of dissolved solids (such as, but not limited to, sodium chloride or sodium sulfate).

(2) Excessive discoloration (such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetable tanning solutions).

(3) Unusual BOD, chemical oxygen demand, or chlorine requirements in such quantities as to constitute a significant load on the sewage treatment works.

(4) Unusual volume of flow or concentration of wastes constituting "slugs" as defined herein.

(j) Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the sewage treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the sewage treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.

(k) Any waters or wastes having (1) a 5-day BOD greater than 300 parts per million by weight, or (2) containing more than 350 parts per million by weight of suspended solids, or (3) having an average daily flow greater than 2 percent of the average sewage flow of the City, shall be subject to the review of the City Administrator, the owner shall provide, at his expense, such preliminary treatment as may be necessary to (1) reduce the biochemical oxygen demand to 300 parts per million by weight, or (2) reduce the suspended solids to 350 parts per million by weight, or (3) control the quantities and rates of discharge of such waters or wastes. Plans, specifications, and any other pertinent information relating to proposed preliminary treatment facilities shall be submitted for the approval of the City Administrator and no construction of such facilities shall be commenced until said approvals are obtained in writing.

Section 5. If any waters or wastes are discharged, or are proposed to be discharged to the public sewers, which waters contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in Section 4 in this Article, and which in the judgment of the City Administrator, may have a deleterious effect upon the sewage works, processes, equipment, or receiving waters, or which otherwise create a hazard to life to constitute a public nuisance, the City Administrator may:

- (a) Reject the wastes,
- (b) Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition for discharge to the public sewers,
- (c) Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge, and/or
- (d) Require payment to cover the added cost of handling and treating the wastes not covered by existing taxes or sewer charges under the provisions of Section 10 of the Article.

If the City Administrator permits the pretreatment or equalization of waste flows, the design and installation of the plants and equipment shall be subject to the review and approval of the City Administrator and subject to the requirements of all applicable codes, ordinances and laws.

Section 6. Grease, oil, and sand interceptors shall be provided when, in the opinion of the City Administrator, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid wastes containing grease in excessive amounts, or any flammable wastes, sand, or other harmful ingredients; except that such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units.

All interceptors shall be of a type and capacity approved by the City Administrator, and shall be located as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection.

Section 7. Where preliminary treatment or flow-equalizing facilities are provided for any waters or wastes, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation by the owner at his expense.

Section 8. When required by the City Administrator, the owner of any property services by a building sewer carrying industrial wastes shall install a suitable control manhole together with such necessary meters and other appurtenances in the building sewer to facilitate observation, sampling, and measurement of the wastes. Such manhole, when required, shall be accessibly and safely located, and shall be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the City Administrator. The manhole shall be installed by the owner at his expense, and shall be maintained by him so as to be safe and accessible at all times.

Section 9. All measurements, tests, and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made in this ordinance shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater", published by the American Public Health Association, and shall be determined at the control manhole provided or upon suitable samples taken at said control manhole. In the event that no special manhole has been required, the control manhole shall be considered to be the nearest downstream manhole in the public sewer to the point at which the building

sewer is connected. Sampling shall be carried out by customarily accepted methods to reflect the effect of constituents upon the sewage works and to determine the existence of hazards to life, limb, and property. (The particular analyses involved will determine whether a twenty-four (24) hours composite of all outfalls of a premise is appropriate or whether a grab sample or samples should be taken. Normally, but not always, BOD and suspended solids, analyses are obtained from 24 hour composites of all outfalls whereas pH's are determined from periodic grab samples.)

Section 10. No statement contained in this article shall be construed as preventing any special agreement or arrangement between the City and any industrial concern whereby an industrial waste of unusual strength or character may be accepted by the City for treatment, subject to payment therefore, by the industrial concern.

Section 11. It shall be the duty of any responsible person to notify the City Administrator of any accidental spillage of chemical or industrial waste of unusual strength or character into the Public Sewer System. Notification will require a verbal report immediately, followed up with a written report within forty-eight (48) hours by the responsible person to the City Administrator. This report shall include the type of spill and any type of damage it might cause. The person shall be responsible for clean up or costs of any such spillage. One verbal and one written report of any such spill shall be sufficient to meet notification.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1. No unauthorized person shall maliciously, willfully, or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface, or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is part of the sewage works. Any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest under charge of disorderly conduct.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1. The City Administrator and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all properties for the purposes of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance. The City Administrator or his representatives shall have no authority to inquire into any processes including metallurgical, chemical, oil, refining, ceramic, paper, or other industries beyond that point having a direct bearing on the kind and source of discharge to the sewers or waterways or facilities for waste treatment.

Section 2. While performing the necessary work on private properties referred to in Article VII, Section 1 above, the City Administrator or duly authorized employees of the City shall observe all safety rules applicable to the premises established by the company and the company shall be held harmless for injury or death to the City employees and the City shall indemnify the company against loss or damage to its property by City employees and against liability claims and demands for personal injury or property damage asserted against the company

and growing out of the gauging and sampling operation, except as such may be caused by negligence or failure of the company to maintain safe conditions as required in Article V, Section 8.

Section 3. The City Administrator and other duly authorized employees of the City bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the City holds a duly negotiated easement for the purposes of, but not limited to, inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, repair, and maintenance of any portion of the sewage works lying within said easement. All entry and subsequent work, if any, on said easement, shall be done in full accordance with the terms of the duly negotiated easement pertaining to the private property involved.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. Any person found to be violating any provision of this ordinance except Article VI shall be served by the City with written notice stating the nature of the violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. The offender shall, within the period of time stated in such notice, permanently cease all violations.

Section 2. Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the time limit provided for in Article VIII, Section 1, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in the amount not exceeding \$100.00 for each violation. Each 24 hour period in which any such violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offense.

Section 3. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall become liable to the City for any expense, loss, or damage occasioned the City by reason of such violation.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 2. The invalidity of any section, clause, sentence, or provision of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part of this ordinance which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

ARTICLE X

Section 1. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, recording and publication as provided by law.

Section 2. Passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Gothenburg, State of Nebraska on this 24th day of April, 1992.

CITY OF GOTHENBURG, DAWSON
COUNTY, NEBRASKA

BY Richard L. Blase
Richard L. Blase, Mayor

ATTEST:

Connie Stull
Connie Stull, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael L. Bacon
Michael L. Bacon, City Attorney