

SECTION 8

308.001

PROHIBITION OF CLEAR WATER DISCHARGES INTO THE SANITARY SEWER, INSPECTION AUTHORITY, AND PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

- A. **Purpose.** In adopting this Ordinance, the City Council finds that the discharge of surface water, storm water, groundwater sump pumps, footing tile, swimming pools, cistern overflows, cooling water, or other natural precipitation into the City sanitary sewer system will, and has on several occasions in the past, flooded and overloaded the sewer system. This system overloading has caused significant damage to private property and discharged raw sewage into Winsted Lake. Backup of sewage into residential living quarters creates a health hazard. The City Council, therefore, finds it is essential that the provisions of this Ordinance be strictly enforced to avoid future emergencies.
- B. **Definition and Method.** No person shall discharge any surface water, storm water, groundwater sump pump, footing tile, swimming pool, cistern overflow, cooling water, or other natural precipitation into the sanitary sewer system. Dwellings and other buildings and structures, which require, because of infiltration of water into basements, crawl spaces and the like, a sump pump discharge system, shall have a permanently installed discharge line which shall not at any time discharge water into the sanitary sewer system, except as provided herein. Permanent installation shall be one which provides for year-round discharge to the outside of the building, is connected to the City storm sewer, or discharges through the curb to the street. It shall consist of a rigid discharge pipe, without valving or quick connections for altering the path of discharge.

The City Council shall have the power and duty of hearing and deciding requests for waivers from the applicability of the provisions of this Ordinance where strict enforcement would cause undue hardship because of circumstances unique to the individual property under consideration or cause a safety problem. Application for a waiver shall be in writing addressed to the City of Winsted. The applications shall identify the property for which the waiver is being applied, the name of the property owner, and described in detail what characteristics of the subject property create an undue hardship or safety concerns. Upon approval of an application for a waiver, the property owner shall be allowed to temporarily pump directly into the sanitary sewer system between the dates of November 1st and April 1st via a City controlled locked valve. The owner of a property with a waiver shall allow a City employee access prior to April 1st to lock out the valve allowing winter discharge to the sanitary sewer. Costs for processing sump pump water through the sanitary sewer system will be billed to the property owner for annual charge to be set by resolution of the City Council. The City shall have the right to inspect all property in the spring each year to assure their water discharge connection has been removed from the sanitary sewer. Failure to remove said discharge will result in a monthly surcharge which will be set (from time to time) by Resolution of the City Council.

- C. **Disconnection.** Before October 1, 1998, any person, firm, or corporation having a roof surface, groundwater sump pump, footing tile, cistern overflow, or swimming pool now connected and/or discharging into the sanitary sewer system shall disconnect and/or remove same. Any disconnects or openings in the sanitary sewer shall be closed or repaired in an effective, workmanlike manner, as approved by the City of Winsted or designated agent.
- D. **Inspection.** Every person owning improved real estate that discharges into the City's sanitary sewer system shall allow an employee of the City of Winsted or their designated representative, bearing proper credentials and identifications, to inspect the buildings to confirm that there is no sump pump or other prohibited discharge into the sanitary sewer system. In lieu of having the City inspect their property, any person may furnish a certificate from a licensed plumber certifying that their property is in compliance with this Ordinance.

Any person refusing to allow their property to be inspected or refusing to furnish a licensed plumber's certificate within fourteen (14) days of the date City employees or their designated representatives are denied admittance to the property, shall immediately become subject to the

surcharge hereinafter provided for. Any property found to violate the Ordinance shall make the necessary changes to comply with the Ordinance and furnish proof of the changes to the City by October 1, 1998.

Property owners not in compliance with this Section will be charged a monthly surcharge in accordance with Section 6.

- E. **New Home Inspections.** During any new construction, renovation or demolition the connection(s) to the sanitary sewer shall be protected through the use of a cover plug in order to eliminate the potential for inflow to enter the sanitary sewer system. Any such water collected shall not be allowed to enter the sanitary sewer system at any time. All new buildings with groundwater sump systems are required, prior to final inspection by City personnel, to have the sump pump installed.

All new homes will be required to have their sump pump system inspected within thirty (30) days of occupancy and a certificate of compliance completed.

- F. **Penalty.** A surcharge of \$100.00 per month is hereby imposed and added to every sewer billing mailed on or after October 1, 1998 to property owners who are not in compliance with this Ordinance. The surcharge shall be levied monthly on properties not complying with the Ordinance. All properties found during yearly re-inspection to have violated this Ordinance will be subject to the said monthly surcharge for all months between the two most recent inspections. This charge shall cease when the property has been inspected by the City or its representatives and deemed to be in compliance with this Ordinance.