

## Sewer Ordinance Committee - Summary Meeting Notes

Approved by Committee: January 8, 2024

Date: Monday, December 4, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Stevenson City Hall

### Desired Objectives/Summary Notes

#### Welcome

- ~~Approved Summary Notes with full consensus~~
- ~~Action items reviewed~~

#### Listening Session 3

Hear from each committee member about their ideas, suggestions and opinions.

\* \*4 minutes per person

This is our 3rd listening session where we've gathered your suggestions, ideas and opinions. We've done this in small groups and reported out. Now, we want to ensure everyone hears from one another before weighing in on the elements of the sewer ordinance and supporting financial policies. Feel free to advocate for a position, share a concern about a known impact, educate the group where you have knowledge, etc.

Transcribed comments notes are below. They are not word for word but captured in short-hand.

Themes noted:

1. City should have standard services and **extend sewer lines** to all city limits using a phased approach with majority grant funded.
2. **Spread the cost** to "everyone" and aim for "fair share. Individual recommendations: rates, GO Bond, assessing fees, property tax, business tax, majority grants, commercial fair share, etc.)
3. Concern about **negative financial impacts** on property owners, including lower-income and those aiming to develop single-family homes or smaller developments.
4. Hire a **grant writer** (clarified grants can only fund a certain % of the lines, and the City has access to grant writers)
5. Change the "**available**" definition of 300 feet (no new number determined)
6. Failure of septic with no repair options should result in **hook-up**
7. When the **sewer is immediately available**, hook-up is the ultimate goal. Possible fees if choose not to connect and possible waiving of SDC fees to connect.
8. The **moratorium** was not viewed positively
9. **Development in Stevenson** - there seems to be a lack of consensus on the current assumptions and approaches the City has discussed. Individual comments: no desire for growth, growth is coming and we should be planning better, people developing vacant lots need easier processes and regulations, growth is not coming.

\*Themes were collected by the Facilitator and don't represent all opinions or comments. The goal was to surface discussion for the members to hear from one another. The surveys will collect quantifiable data.

**Reflect and Report** - Directions were given to reflect on what members heard from one another and then adjust their survey results accordingly.

A few members indicated that the Choose Your Own Adventure raised more questions than answers. Given that, there was a question-and-answer period. Staff answered questions posed by the group. Staff asked clarifying questions of the committee. Surveys were not collected but will be after the meeting to give people more time.

Clarification about scope was re-iterated. We are here to inform specifications of the sewer ordinance.

There was a proposal to get together for another meeting. The scope is identified in the next steps.

**Next steps:**

The majority of the group seemed interested in a fourth meeting to create a committee-driven recommendation to City Council that includes assumptions and bullet points to inform the sewer ordinance draft and various aspects of the financial policy.

1. Elects not required but staff are needed as experts
2. Tracy was asked to continue volunteering as the facilitator and the meeting will be planned and led by Wes and Jeff.

1/18 City Council will have a Sewer Ordinance Listening Session where the general public will be invited to testify and share perspectives. We aim to present the Committee recommendation at the meeting.

**Convened 8:05**

**Attendance**

**Staff:** City Administrator Leana Kinley, Public Works Director Carolyn Sourek, Community Development Director Ben Shumaker

**Facilitator:** Tracy Gratto

**Committee:**

| Name           | Signature | Name            | Signature |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Adam Miller    | x         | Mark Peterson   | x         |
| Brian McKenzie | x         | Michael Johnson | x         |
| Chuck Oldfield | x         | Rick Jessel     | x         |
| Dave Cox       | x         | Rick May        | x         |
| Gail Collins   | x         | Scott Anderson  | x         |
| Jeff Breckel   | x         | Shawn Van Pelt  | x         |
| Jenny Taylor   | x         | Wes Houston     | x         |
| Karen Rutledge | x         |                 |           |