

Department of Public Works – Inspections Division

MEMO

TO: Utilities Committee

FROM: Dale VandeWalle, Plumbing Inspector
Ross Buetow, Deputy Director of Public Works / City Engineer

DATE: August 4, 2022

RE: Approve updates to Municipal Code Chapter 4, Article V, Plumbing

The Department of Public Works requests approval of updates to Municipal Code Chapter 4, Article V, Plumbing. Attached are both a redlined version of the proposed updates as well as a “completed” version with all proposed revisions adopted. The proposed changes are intended to remove redundant verbiage, add clarity to certain areas, and update the ordinance to follow closely the procedures we use relating to plumbing. The following is a summary of the updates to each section.

Section 4-261:

- Eliminated the list of definitions by referring to the state statute that actually explains what is considered plumbing
- Added definitions of “private sanitary lateral” to clearly define that which is the responsibility of the property owner. This definition then coincides with the City sanitary policy where it states the City is responsible for the connection at the main, nothing else.
- Added definition of “curb thimble”. There are still several in the City and we no longer allow them. This is addressed in newly created section 4-271 (f)
- Added definition of “clay dam”. We have always required these on new sewer installations, but had no verbiage to back it up.
- Added the definition of a “single family, owner occupied dwelling” to clarify when a homeowner can legally install plumbing. The term is stated in section 145.06 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. This definition just clarifies the intent of the wording.
- Added definitions for “Clearwater, Discharge, Drywell, Groundwater, Stormwater and POWTS.

Section 4-262:

- Changed DSPS to reflect the entire state plumbing code, not just specific chapters

Section 4-263:

- Clarified the inspections performed and the actual procedures that are used.

Section 4-264:

- Changed verbiage/eliminated some terminology to correctly state what is occurring.

Section 4-265:

- Added “street excavation” to clarify the type of permit obtained.

4-266:

- Changed verbiage to specify how we receive complaints. Eliminated wording for processes we do not use or enforce.

4-267:

- Clarified which Division inspects various elements of work. Also, that work must be inspected before it is covered.

4-268:

- Added requirements to be consistent with the excavation permit we currently require for work in the public right of way.

4-269:

- Clarified actual process for data entry and record keeping.
- Clarified process when a lateral is not where indicated by City records
- Clarified who determines which Division approves new sewer connections
- Clarified who sets grades

4-270:

- Added verbiage to state that the City can force connection to sewer and water and assess associated costs
- Cleaned up wording relating to water and sewer connections
- Added clarification regarding storm lateral connections.
- Subs. (e and f) added requirements for abandoning a septic tank; abandoning or continuing use of a well once connected to City water.
- Changed responsible party for granting extensions to the City

4-271:

- (a) Added “catch all” phrase (or any other pollutant) for discharge possibilities.

- (b) Eliminated 15 day disconnect requirement; cause to connect wording; we do not do things this way; added non-compliance wording to correlate to how we do address violations.
- (e) Did substantial rewrite of this section to include specific discharges that we have encountered. Added sub. 1 Drywells
- (f) Added wording to address curb thimbles (see definitions)

4-272:

- No changes; this section was revised in 2016

4-273:

- (a) Edited alternate material approval wording
- (b) Updated approved materials by referring to State Plumbing code; clarifies that when buildings are razed and the existing sewer is to be re-used, it must comply with this section
- (c) eliminated; unnecessary plumbing code reference
- (d) added requirement for a “clay dam” (see definitions)
- (f) clarified that all interior plumbing must pass through a backwater valve; (this helps prevent damage claims from sewer back-ups or when contractors are jetting sewers)

4-274:

- (a) added details for garage drains for detached garages to address past problems that have arisen and to clarify requirements
- (b) corrected wording to reflect code
- (c) added wording relating to a “dry vent” (see definitions)

4-275:

- No changes; this section was revised in 2016

4-276:

- Completely new section; added to address grease in our sanitary sewers relating to commercial properties

4-277:

- Completely new section; added to address grease in our sanitary sewers relating to residential properties

4-278:

- Completely new section: created to clarify minimum water service sizes to commercial and residential buildings.

4-291:

- (a) edited a few words
- (b) edited; eliminated process we do not use

4-292:

- added well abandonment as requiring a permit

4-293:

- edited a few terms

4-294:

- edited who is responsible

4-295:

- Changed the date at which a permit will be void to be consistent w with another section, 4-75; Added 2 year limitation on permit life

4-296:

- No changes

4-297:

- (2) Clarified homeowners ability to take over for a cancelled permit to comply with State Statute; (see definition of single family/owner occupied)
- (3) clarified wording
- (4) updated procedure, fee

4-316:

- No changes

4-317:

- Clarified which plans City could approve

4-318:

- Clarified which plans must be approved by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) by referring to State Plumbing Code; all reference erased are listed in this section

4-319:

- Corrected wording

4-320:

- Clarified who could stamp/sign plans

4-321:

- Added wording to clarify that work shall not commence until plans are approved by the City or DSPS and what documents shall be submitted for review

4-322.:

- Reversed sections (b) and (c)

4-323:

- Added that an as-built set of plans is required to be submitted when work is not installed per the approved plans; and fees associated with such changes

4-324, 4-325

- No changes to these sections