



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

ALEXANDER "ANDE" BANKS, VI, CITY MANAGER
409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

TO: Ande Banks, City Manager
FROM: Chris Brown, City Attorney
DATE: October 12, 2023
RE: Amendment to Section 7-3-3 – When and where connection required to public city sewer main.

Summary: Proposal to amend City Code Section 7-3-3 (When and where connection required to public city sewer main) to increase maximum fee waiver from \$4500 to \$5000.

Background: Section 7-3-3 of City Code requires newly constructed buildings to connect to the city public sewer unless certain limited exceptions are met. That section requires any property with a septic system which is failing and cannot be repaired to connect to the city public sewer system. Section 7-3-3 also allows a residential property owner utilizing a septic system to voluntarily connect to the city public sewer system.

Key Issues: The Harrisonburg Department of Public Utilities encourages any property owner with a septic system to properly close that septic system and connect to the public sewer. The Public Utilities Department has a Septic Assistance Program referenced in 7-3-3 which provides economic assistance with the costs of closing a septic system and connecting to the public sewer system, including the waiver of sewer connection fees. Council recently amended the water and sewer connection and cost recovery fees. The proposed ordinance amendment would increase the available fee waiver from \$4500 to \$5000 to match the current fees.

There are approximately 80 septic systems in operation in the City. Each year a small number of those systems are closed, and those properties are connected to the public sewer system.

Environmental Impact: This ordinance amendment will have a positive impact on the environment by increasing incentives to properly close septic systems and connect to the city public sewer system.

Fiscal Impact: There will be a nominal fiscal impact due to the small number of residents who qualify for the Sewer Assistance Program each year.

Prior Actions: N/A

Alternatives: Decline to take action

Community Engagement: None



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

ALEXANDER "ANDE" BANKS, VI, CITY MANAGER
409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

Recommendation: Staff recommends adoption of the amendment to City Code Section 7-3-3 (When and where connection required to public city sewer main).

Attachments: Redlined Section 7-3-3.

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.