

Breckenridge Public Utilities

Sump Pump Policy

The following sump pump policy shall apply to all customers of the Breckenridge Public Utilities.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is requiring that the Breckenridge Public Utilities (BPU) address inflow and infiltration issues in the sanitary sewer system.

BPU sanitary sewer system has a design flow of 500,000 gallons per day. Under normal conditions, the amount of flow is well within design parameters. For example, during August/September 2021, flows have been about 212,000 gallons per day. However, during wet conditions (when sump pumps are typically running the most) flows into the sanitary sewer system easily exceed the design limit of 500,000 gallons per day and can often exceed 800,000 gallons per day. When this occurs your sanitary sewer system is not in compliance with its operating permit. Although sump pumps are not the sole contributor to this increase in flow, they are a very significant part of the problem.

BPU sanitary sewer system needs your help to control ground water flow. MPCA has indicated that inflow and infiltration problems in the sanitary sewer system must be addressed and corrective action taken.

If ground water flows into the sanitary sewer are not curtailed, MPCA may enforce a compliance schedule to the permit. In this case, the city of Breckenridge may be forced to expand the sanitary sewer force main and sewage lagoon capacity. The cost to Breckenridge residents would be in the millions of dollars.

The City of Breckenridge Ordinance No.147-4 reads “No person shall connect or cause or permit to be connected with any sanitary sewer pipe or drain, or any sanitary sewer system of the City of Breckenridge, rainspouts or roof or eave drains of a building or structure, sump pumps or drain tile, or in any other manner cause surface waters or ground waters to be drained into the sanitary sewer pipes or drains of the sanitary sewer system of the City of Breckenridge”.

Policy States:

1. A monthly surcharge of \$25 will be incurred by all residents who allow sump pumps, roof drains, drain tile or any other type of connection that allows rain, snow melt, or any other non-sewage water to enter the sanitary sewer system during the time period of October 15th thru March 15th; however, all customers must convert their sump pump(s) discharge to outdoor lawn or the storm water collection system by March 31st of each year. This grace period

gives customers two weeks to get the system converted from the sanitary system to the outside/storm water system. Any customer found to be non-compliant on or after April 1st of each year will be subject to a \$250 fine for each month they are out of compliance. Exclusion: Homes built prior to September 8, 1998, that have drain tile connected to the sanitary sewer system. These homes will be exempt until such time that any type of major construction/remodeling would occur.

2. Sump pumps must be hard plumbed to the outside. Flexible hose, hose clamps, etc. in building is not acceptable.
3. Two-way valves are not allowed unless there is a method provided for the Utility to physically seal the valve from being switched to the sewer system.
4. Public Utility employees are authorized to do inspections of the sump pumps, etc. to determine if the connections are to the sanitary sewer or to the outside. If a property owner does not allow Utility employees to inspect, the surcharge fee of \$250.00 per month will be immediately applied until the inspection is made and determination that the sump pump(s), etc. is properly plumbed outside.

Pursuant to due call and proper notice thereof for the Breckenridge City Council was held on January 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, Breckenridge, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Russell Wilson; Council Members Beth Meyer, Evie Fox, Reed Johnson, James Jawaski, Chris Vedder, and Scott Wermerskirchen. City Administrator Lori Conway and City Attorney Jason Butts.

Members Absent: None.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Johnson moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Fox and carried unanimously.

Open Discussion: None.

Motion by Council Member Vedder to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Johnson and carried unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following:

- A. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting on January 9, 2023.
- B. Motion approving to file the minutes from the Public Utilities Commission meeting of January 9, 2023.
- C. Motion approving a Raffle Permit for the Breckenridge Music Boosters.
- D. Motion approving a Raffle Permit for the Breckenridge Baseball Association.
- E. Motion approving a quote from Amazon in the amount of \$1,100 for a Spectrum Precision Laser Level for the Building Codes Official.
- F. Motion approving a quote from Amazon in the amount of \$393 for Lenovo Chromebook 13.3" Idea Pad and Microsoft Office Home & Student 2021 for \$137.50 for the Fire Department.
- G. Motion approving a quote from Code 4 Services in the amount of \$4473.67 for the outfitting of the 2022 Ford Explorer and \$4599.34 for the outfitting of the 2015 Ford Explorer.
- H. Motion approving a quote from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$7452 for a squad car radio for the 2015 Ford Explorer.
- I. Motion approving a quote from Advanced Graphix in the amount of \$745 for reflective tape for the 2015 Ford Explorer.
- J. Motion approving a quote from Auto Creation and Signs in the amount of \$300 for the installation of graphics for the 2015 Ford Explorer.
- K. Motion approving a quote from Stalker Radar in the amount of \$3121 for a DSR 2 Antenna Radar and cable kit for the 2015 Ford Explorer.

Motion by Council Member Vedder to approve a Breckenridge Sump Pump Policy. Seconded by Council Member Jawaski and carried unanimously. The Utility employees will go to the homes to monitor to make sure the home is in compliance while reading meters. The lift station

numbers will show when there is too much going into the sanitary sewers. There are 170 homes that convert back and forth from outside to the sanitary and then pay the \$25 per month when they are switched to the sanitary. We need to make sure that they are switched over in the spring/summer as that can make a big difference. It was never mandated before, but now it will be. There are homes that the Utilities is not aware of that have it hard plumbed into the sanitary and those need to be identified through looking for sump pump hoses while reading meters.

Motion by Council Member Johnson to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance No. 521 – Sewage and Waste Disposal. Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

Council Member Wermerskirchen offered Resolution No. 13327-4/2023, **“A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 521, AMENDING CHAPTER 147 – SEWAGE AND WASTE DISPOSAL,”** and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously.

Council Member Vedder offered Resolution No. 13328-5/2023, **“A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY PROJECT NO. 321-23, TWITO CIRCUIT C BORING AND AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISING OF BIDS,”** and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously. This is a continuation of the 30-year project to have all of the electric lines buried underground versus running on overhead.

Along with a meeting salary list, Council Member Wermerskirchen offered Resolution No. 13329-6/2023, **“A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE BILLS AND CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE,”** and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

Council Member Jawaski offered Resolution No. 13330-7/2023, **“A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN UPDATED PURCHASE POLICY FOR THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE, MINNESOTA,”** and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Johnson and carried unanimously. This just raises the amount needed to have two quotes and a purchase order from \$400 to \$1000.

Council Member Johnson offered Resolution No. 13331-8/2023, **“A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FORD EXPLORER POLICE VEHICLE FROM RED RIVER RESCUE, LLC OF WAHPETON, ND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,160,”** and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Vedder and carried unanimously.

Council Member Meyer offered Resolution No. 13332-9/2023, **“A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE LIMITS ON CURRENT CREDIT CARDS FOR CERTAIN PURCHASES WITHIN THE CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE,”** and moved for its adoption. Seconded by Council Member Johnson and carried unanimously. In order to accommodate the rising costs and inflation.

Mayor’s Comments: None

Other Comments:

- Reminder that the second Council meeting in February will be on the Tuesday after Monday's federal holiday of Presidents Day.
- Council Member Fox stated that she attended a recent County meeting where she learned how ASI (Ambulance) and Police are being misused. They are all short-staffed and having to respond to calls that are not true emergencies. The public needs to be informed that sometimes you need to be accountable for yourself if it is not an emergency.

Another issue may be how the neighboring ambulances who help cover are being reimbursed. They are both owned privately and the City should not be involved in their financial disputes. We can attend to keep updated on the response issues though.

- Council Member Jawaski asked who is supposed to shovel sidewalks in front of homes. It is the homeowner's responsibility.

Motion by Council Member Jawaski to adjourn the meeting at 5:35p.m. Seconded by Council Member Meyer and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

RUSSELL WILSON, Mayor

LORI A. CONWAY, City Administrator