

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Stephanie Smith , City engineer
DATE: January 21, 2025
SUBJECT: Ordinance 1046 - amending requirements for subsurface sewage treatment systems
ITEM NUMBER: 8.k
SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To adopt Ordinance 1046 amending requirements for subsurface sewage treatment systems.

INTRODUCTION

The city code includes regulations for subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS). In reviewing the city code in comparison with the state statute, Minnesota Pollution Control, and neighboring city requirements, it was determined that our regulations were inconsistent. The proposed ordinance would amend city code to better correspond with state and other local regulations, current system maintenance practices, and continue to protect the health and welfare of our community.

DISCUSSION

SEH, the city's consultant for SSTS, as part of their work this year reviewed our city code requirements. Additionally, staff had received feedback from residents that our 3-year certificate of compliance requirement was different than other cities where they had lived. In their review, SEH determined that our code was more stringent on certificate of compliance time periods than the state statute required or other cities they work with.

Our consultant recommended adding a requirement for a certification of compliance inspection when the property is sold and submittal of maintenance reporting forms, with tank compliance certification, every three years. The maintenance report is a less burdensome requirement that will still gather useful information on the functionality of the system, rather than a full certificate of compliance. The proposed ordinance language is attached. These requirements will be consistent with our region, while still protecting the safety and health of our residents.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the council adopt Ordinance 1046 amending requirements for subsurface sewage treatment systems.

ATTACHMENTS

[Proposed Ordinance 1046 SSTS](#)