

AN ORDINANCE of the Town of Gig Harbor, Washington relating to sanitary sewers, providing procedures and regulations for connecting to public sanitary sewers, regulating and controlling private sewer systems, providing penalties for violations of Ordinance provisions.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON DO ONSAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This Ordinance shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the State of Washington, and of the Town and is deemed expedient to maintain the peace, good government and welfare of said Town and its trade, commerce, and manufactures, and to insure greater protection to life and health and all of its provisions shall be liberally construed for the accomplishment of such purposes.

Section 2. Definition: Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this Ordinance shall be as follows:

Sewage Works shall mean all facilities for collecting, pumping, treating, and disposing of sewage.

Superintendent shall mean the person designated from time to time in accordance with personnel policies of the Town, or his authorized deputy, agent, or representative.

Sewage shall mean a combination of water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, and storm water as may be present.

Sewer shall mean a pipe or conduit for carrying sewage.

Public Sanitary Sewer shall mean a sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights, and which is controlled by public authority.

Combined Sewer shall mean a sewer receiving both surface runoff and sewage.

Sanitary Sewer shall mean a sewer which carries sewage and to which storm, surface, and ground water are not intentionally admitted.

Storm Sewer and Storm Drain shall mean a sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage, but excludes sewage and polluted water.

Sewage Treatment Plant shall mean any arrangement of devices and structures used for treating sewage.

Industrial Wastes shall mean the liquid wastes from industrial processes as distinct from sanitary sewage.

Garbage shall mean solid wastes from the preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food, and from the handling, storage and sale of produce.

Properly Shredded Garbage shall mean the wastes from the preparation, cooking, and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers, with no particles greater than 1/2 inch in any direction.

Building Drain shall mean that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, wastes, and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer beginning two (2) feet outside the wall.

B. O. D. (denoting Biochemical Oxygen Demand) shall mean the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in 5 days at 20° C., expressed in parts per million by weight.

pH shall mean the logarithm of the reciprocal of the weight of hydrogen ions in grams per liter of solution.

Suspended Solids shall mean solids that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in water, sewage, or other liquids and which are removable by laboratory filtering.

Natural Outlet shall mean any outlet into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake, or other body of surface or ground water.

Watercourse shall mean a channel in which a flow of water occurs either continuously or intermittently.

As Built shall mean the detailed sketch or drawing of the building sewer or disposal system as constructed.

Shall is mandatory.

May is permissive.

Section 3. Appointment of Sewer Department Personnel.

All personnel of the Sewer Department shall be appointed in accordance with personnel policies of the Town of Gig Harbor.

Section 4. Powers and Authority of Superintendents, Inspectors and Assistants:

The Superintendent and other duly authorized employees of the Town bearing proper credentials and identification shall be permitted to enter upon all property for the purposes of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing in accordance with provision of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Permit Fees: The fee for each permit to connect with any public sewer or to construct, extend, relay, repair, or make connections with a lateral or private sewer inside of property line is hereby fixed at TEN (10.00) DOLLARS inside the Town and FIFTEEN (15.00) DOLLARS outside of the Town and said fee shall be paid to the Town Treasurer who shall issue a receipt therefore and such receipt must be filed with the Superintendent before the permit is issued.

Section 6. Display of Permits. The permits required under the terms of this Ordinance, must at all times during the performance of the work and until the completion thereof, be posted in some conspicuous place at or near the work.

Section 7. Permit Time Limit. Any permit issued under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be valid for a period of six (6) months. Renewal permits shall be valid for an additional six (6) months.

Section 8. Use of Public Sewers Required. It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit, or permit to be deposited in an unsanitary manner upon public or private property within the Town of Gig Harbor in any area

under the jurisdiction of said Town any human or animal excrement, garbage, or other objectional waste.

Except as hereinafter provided, it shall be unlawful to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, septic tank, cesspool, or other facility intended or used for the disposal of sewage.

The owners of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purpose, situated within the Town of Gig Harbor and abutting on any street, alley, or easement in which there is now located or may in the future be located a public sanitary sewer of the Town of Gig Harbor are hereby required at their expense to install suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, within 120 days after date of official notice to do so, provided that said public sewer is within two hundred (200) feet of the building or buildings and specific provisions have been made to connect such to the public sewer and that no public health or safety hazards exist as determined by the Superintendent.

In all cases where a public health or safety hazard exists as determined by the Superintendent and the property is available to the public sewer the Town Council shall compel the owners of such buildings or properties to connect to the public sewer at their expense within twenty (20) days of such notice, under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the Superintendent and to that end the Town Council shall direct the Superintendent to notify in writing the owner or occupant of such premises that the use of the privy well or vault, or cesspool, shall be terminated, and said privy well or vault, or cesspool, must be disinfected and filled with fresh earth, and a septic tank must be constructed upon such premises and suitable plumbing installed in any building or structure located thereon and such plumbing connected with, and to drain in to such septic tank, all within the period of twenty (20) days from and after the time when such notice shall be served as hereinafter provided.

Nothing herein contained shall prohibit the use of cesspools or

umps for the disposition of liquids from floor drains, or laundry traps where said fixtures are too low to drain into the sanitary sewer.

Section 9. Town May Connect and Assess Cost. If any owner or occupant shall fail, neglect or refuse to connect his lands, buildings, or premises with the public sewer within the time specified in the notice referred to in Section 8 of this Ordinance, or shall fail, neglect or refuse to do the other work specified and ordered to be done as in Section 8, or in Section 10 of this Ordinance provided within the time specified in the notice theretofore served upon such owner or occupant as in said Section 9 or said Section 10 provided, the Superintendent shall make such connection or do such work and the cost of the connection or of such work done by the Superintendent shall be assessed against the property so connected or upon which such work is done and the amount of such cost shall become a lien upon the said premises so connected or upon which said work is done, and the Town Attorney of the Town of Gig Harbor is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to collect the amount of the cost of such connection on the doing of such work, either by foreclosure of said lien or by a suit against the owner or occupant of said premises, which suit shall be maintained in the name of the Town of Gig Harbor as plaintiff, in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 10. Repair of Obstructed or Broken Sewers. Whenever any private sewer pipe connected with any public sewer becomes obstructed, broken or out of order, and if the owner, agent or occupant of such premises fails to repair the same within five (5) days after notification to do so by the Superintendent, the Superintendent is hereby authorized to remove, reconstruct, replace, alter or clear the same as required, at the expense of the owner, agent or occupant of such premises, and when two or more houses or buildings are connected with the same private sewer, the owners, agent or occupants of such premises, shall be jointly and equally liable for any work done at the direction of the Superintendent under this section. No permit shall be required for the removal of obstructions from private sewers, providing the pipe is not damaged.

Section 11. Use of Public Sewers. No person or business firm,

shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer.

Storm water and other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such drains as are specifically designated as storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the Superintendent. Industrial cooling water or unpolluted process waters may be discharged, upon approval of the Superintendent and other authorizing government agencies to a storm sewer or natural outlet.

Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters to any public sewer:

- A. Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than 150° F.
- B. Any water or waste which may contain more than 100 parts per million, by weight of fat, oil, or grease.
- C. Any gasoline, benzene, naptha, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.
- D. Any garbage that has not been properly shredded.
- E. Any ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, faunsch manure, or any other solid or viscous substance capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage works.
- F. Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5 or higher than 9.0 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, and personnel of the sewage works.
- G. Any waters or wastes containing a toxic or poisonous substance in sufficient quantity to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant.

- II. Any water or waste containing suspended solids of such character and quantity that unusual attention or expense is required to handle such materials at the sewage treatment plant.
- I. Any noxious or malodorous gas or substance capable of creating a public nuisance.

Grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be provided when in the opinion of the Superintendent, they are necessary for the proper handling of liquid waste containing grease in excessive amounts, or any flammable waste, sand and other harmful ingredients; except that such interceptors shall not be required for private living quarters or dwelling units. All interceptors shall be of the type and capacity approved by the Superintendent, and shall be located so as to be readily and easily accessible for cleaning and inspection at the expense of the owner or user.

Grease and oil interceptors shall be constructed of impervious materials capable of withstanding abrupt and extreme changes in temperature. They shall be of substantial construction, watertight, and equipped with easily removable covers which, when bolted in place, shall be gastight and watertight.

Where installed, all grease, oil and sand interceptors shall be maintained by the owner, at his expense, in continuously efficient operation at all times.

The admission into the public sewer of any water or waste having (a) a 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand greater than 300 parts per million by weight, or (b) containing more than 350 parts per million by weight of suspended solids, or (c) containing any quantity or substances having the characteristics described above in this section, or (d) having an average daily flow greater than 25% of the average daily sewage flow of the Town shall be subject to the review and approval of the Superintendent. Where necessary in the opinion of the Superintendent, the owner shall provide, at his expense, such preliminary treatment as may be necessary to, (a) reduce the Biochemical Oxygen Demand to 300 parts per million and the suspended solids to 350 parts per million by weight, or (b) reduce objectionable characteristics or constituents to within the maximum limits

provided for above, or (c) control the quantities and rates of discharge of such waters or wastes. Plans, specifications, and other pertinent information relating to proposed preliminary treatment facilities shall be submitted for the approval of the Superintendent and the Department of Ecology of the State of Washington, and no construction of such facilities shall be commenced until said approvals are obtained in writing.

Where preliminary treatment facilities are provided for any waters or wastes, they shall be maintained continuously in satisfactory and effective operation, by the owner at his expense.

Section 12. Fees for Inspection. There shall be no charge for required inspections unless an inspection is necessary because of failure to comply with the terms of this Ordinance or any construction standards, specifications or codes of the Town. For all inspections for which a charge is made, the charge shall consist of the actual cost per hour, including overhead, of sending Sewer Department personnel to make the inspections, plus equipment rental charges if any. In no event shall the charge be less than Ten (10.00) Dollars.

All inspection fees shall be paid to the Town Treasurer who shall issue receipts therefore. No permit shall be issued to any person who is delinquent in the payment of inspection charges.

Section 13. Damage to Public Sewers: No person shall maliciously or willfully break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is a part of the sewage works.

Section 14. Planting of Certain Trees and Shrubbery Prohibited.  
It shall be unlawful to plant poplar, cottonwood, soft maples, willow, or any other tree or shrub whose roots are likely to obstruct public or private sewers. The Superintendent is hereby authorized to remove any trees or shrubs from any public street, or the roots of any trees or shrubs which extend into any public street, when said trees or the roots thereof, are obstructing, or when he shall determine that they are liable to obstruct, public or private sewers. Provided, however, that he shall give ten (10) days notice in writing to the owner or occupant of the shrub-

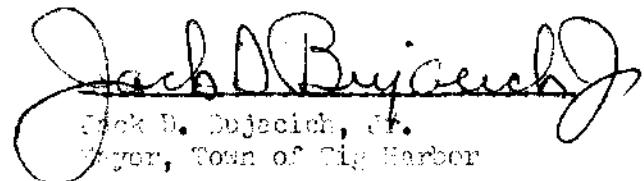
ting property to remove the same, and if such owner or occupant fails or refuses to do so, the reasonable cost of such removal from either private property, alleys or streets, when done at the direction of the Superintendent shall be a charge against, and a lien upon, the abutting property from which such trees or shrubs are removed, and the Town Attorney is hereby authorized and directed to collect such charge by suit maintained in the name of the Town of Gig Harbor as plaintiff, against the owner in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 15. Penalty for Violation. Any person, firm, or corporation found guilty of violating this ordinance or any part thereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not exceeding FIVE HUNDRED (500.00) DOLLARS.

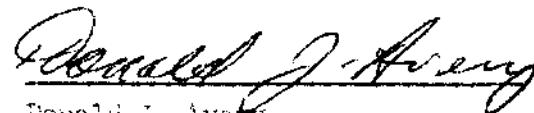
Section 16. Severability. The invalidity of any sentence, clause, section, or provision of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part thereof which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

Section 17. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days from and after its passage, approval and publication, as provided by law.

Passed this 28 day of October, 1971.

  
Jack B. Bujacich, Jr.  
Treasurer, Town of Gig Harbor

ATTACHED:



Donald J. Avery  
Town Clerk