

VERSION: MAY 12, 2023 (CURRENT)

ENFORCEMENT

§ 20-10. - UTILITY CHARGES;
RESPONSIBILITY, DUE AND PAYABLE;
DELINQUENCY; TERMINATION.

§ 20-11. - DISCONNECTION FEES.

§ 20-12. - RECONNECTION FEES.

§ 20-13. - RESERVED.

§ 20-14. - LAWSUITS FOR
COLLECTION; ATTORNEY FEES.

§ 20-15. - ACCOUNTS IN NAME OF
PROPERTY OWNER; LIEN ON
PROPERTY FOR UNPAID OR
DELINQUENT UTILITY CHARGES.

§ 20-16. - TAMPERING WITH WATER
METERS OR EQUIPMENT.

§ 20-17. - DISCONTINUANCE OF
RELATED UTILITY SERVICES.

§ 20-18. - RIGHT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
DEPARTMENT TO INSPECT
PLUMBING.

§ 20-19. - PAYMENT SEQUENCE
APPLICATION.

§ 20-20. - PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL
CONNECTIONS.

§ 20-22. - MANDATORY CONNECTION.

All properties, whether residential or commercial, utilizing a private onsite sewage treatment and disposal system or septic system, excluding an approved gray water system, must connect the system or the building plumbing to the public sewer system of the City of Tarpon Springs in the following manner and based on the following criteria:

- (1) An onsite sewage treatment and disposal system which is properly functioning must be connected to the city sewer system within 365 days after written notification by the city to the property owner. Such written notification may be by regular U.S. mail or a copy thereof may be delivered to the property owner or posted on the property.
- (2) An onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that needs repair or modification to function in a sanitary manner or to comply with the requirements of state law or administrative regulations must be connected to the city sewer system within 90 days after written notification by the city to the property owner. Such written notification may be by regular U.S. mail or a copy thereof may be delivered to the property owner or posted on the property.
- (3) It is obligation of the owner of the property on which the said onsite sewage treatment and disposal system is located to arrange for and pay for the connection to the city sewer system, regardless of whether or not the property is occupied by a tenant and the legal obligation for such connection and the payment therefore shall be that of the owner. In the event that the owner fails or refuses to connect to the public sewer system as provided herein, such property shall be deemed to be a public nuisance and the city may proceed to require said connection to the public sewer system by means of injunction, code enforcement proceedings or any other legally available remedy and the cost thereof, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, shall constitute a lien on said property, superior to the lien of any other encumbrance on the property, except a lien of ad valorem taxes. In the event that the city shall institute legal process to collect the said costs and fees, it shall be entitled to collect a reasonable attorney's fee for the value of the attorney's services in addition to any other cost or interest due and owing from such property owner.
- (4) The owner of such onsite sewage treatment and disposal system shall have the option of paying the amortized value of the required connection charges and impact fee in equal monthly installments over a period not to exceed two years from the date of the required connection or at the date of the actual connection to the sewer system, whichever is first.
- (5) No mandatory connection to the public sewer system shall be required if the public sewer system is at a distance greater than 200 feet from the property line of the property owner, using a properly functioning onsite sewage treatment and disposal system.
- (6) The owner of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system that needs repair or modification to function in a sanitary manner, or to comply with the requirements of state law or administrative regulation adopted pursuant to state law, must connect to the public sewer system as above provided, if public sewer system is within 400 feet of the owner's property line.
- (7) The connection charges and impact fees required to be paid for connection to the Tarpon Springs sewer system may be paid without interest in monthly installments over a period of time not to exceed five years from the date of required connection as set forth above, or the date of actual connection, whichever is sooner, if the owner has demonstrated a financial hardship. The criteria for financial hardship shall be established by resolution of the city commission and shall take into account the owner's net worth, income and financial needs.
- (8) All payments and connection fees which are delayed or otherwise paid over a period of time as allowed by the standards set forth above, shall not be extinguished by foreclosure of any existing mortgage or other encumbrance or lien on the property which was filed prior to the enactment of this section. In the event that such lien is extinguished by a court decision or by operation of law, sewer service to the property will be discontinued until such time as the present owner or a new owner makes arrangements satisfactory to the city that such obligation shall be paid in full and a valid lien or other legally enforceable charge has been established to legally encumber the property and securing the payment of such obligation.
- (9) Upon connection to the public sewer system, any onsite sewage treatment and disposal system shall be discontinued, removed or otherwise disabled in accordance with appropriate public health standards.

(Ord. 2000-06, passed 2-1-00)