

**CHAPTER 921**  
**Sewer Connections and Rental Rates**

- 921.01 **Definition.**
- 921.02 **Property owner required to install; notice; failure to comply.**
- 921.03 **Permit required; fee; multiple use connections prohibited.**
- 921.04 **Sewerage system capacity charge.**
- 921.05 **Sewer footage fees.**
- 921.06 **Sewer INSTALLER ~~tapper~~ permit.**
- 921.07 **Materials and construction.**
- 921.08 **Inspections.**
- 921.09 **General provisions.**
- 921.10 **Prohibitions.**
- 921.11 **Sewer rental rates.**
- 921.12 **Unpaid bills.**
- 921.13 **Partial payment.**
- 921.14 **Application, administration and enforcement of Columbus sewer usage ordinance.**
- 921.99 **VIOLATIONS Penalty.**

**CROSS REFERENCES**

- Power to license sewer tappers and vault cleaners - see Ohio R.C. 715.27
- Compulsory sewer connections - see Ohio R.C. 729.06
- Sewerage rates - see Ohio R.C. 729.49, 729.52
- Management and control of sewerage system - see Ohio R.C. 729.50

**921.01 DEFINITION.**

"Sewer service connections" means the complete sewer line from the **CITY Municipal** sewer main in the street, alley or private right of way to a connection with the plumbing at the building. (Ord. 9-68. Passed 1-31-68.)

**921.02 PROPERTY OWNER REQUIRED TO INSTALL; NOTICE; FAILURE TO COMPLY.**

The owner or owners of any house, cottage or other building which is adjacent to a sanitary sewer main and which contains a toilet, kitchen sink or laundry facilities producing liquid wastes, shall, within ninety days after receipt of a notice from the **Municipal** Director of Public Service to install a sanitary sewer service connection, make application to the **CITY Municipality** for a permit to construct such connection. In the event such property owner or owners fail to apply for such permit or fail to construct such sewer service connection within the time limit of such permit, the **CITY Municipality** shall proceed to construct or cause to be constructed such sanitary sewer service connection and shall assess the cost of such construction, including acreage fees, front foot fees, permit fees and all other related costs to the property owner. (Ord. 9-68. Passed 1-31-68.)

**EXHIBIT A**

**921.03 PERMIT REQUIRED; FEE; MULTIPLE USE CONNECTIONS PROHIBITED.**

No connection with any part of the CITY Municipal sanitary sewer system, nor the repair or removal thereof, nor any excavation therefor shall be started without first securing a permit from the Department of Public Service. Such permit must be on the premises where such sewer service connection is being done, prior to the beginning of such work and during the continuation thereof. A charge of eighty dollars (\$80.00) shall be made for such permit to cover the cost of issuance and inspections. Such amount shall be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the Sewer Fund. The charge for such permit is nonrefundable.

No permit shall be issued which contemplates the construction or installation of any multiple use connection. Each commercial, industrial, residential, occupied structure, etc., shall have a separate sewer service connection to the sanitary sewer system, whether or not such facilities are owned by one person. Multiple structures shall have separate connections for each unit, except where this would create a manifest hardship, in which case the Director of Public Service may grant special written permission to the owner to use a single connection.

(Ord. 0203-2002. Passed 11-4-02.)

**921.04 SEWERAGE SYSTEM CAPACITY CHARGE.**

Before any permit is issued for a sanitary sewer connection, there shall be exacted and collected by the City, a sanitary sewer system capacity charge for all property which is, or will be tributary, directly or indirectly, to any trunk sanitary sewer built by the City. The charge shall be exacted and collected only upon the granting of permission to connect a property to the sanitary sewer system.

The charge so exacted shall be determined in accordance with the following and reviewed annually by the Director of Public Service with recommendation to Council for necessary code changes:

Domestic Supply Water Tap Size (Inches)	System Capacity Charge			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
3/4	\$ 1,475	\$ 1,775	\$ 1,975	\$ 2,100
1	3,050	3,700	4,075	4,350
1-1/2	8,000	9,725	10,750	11,450
2	13,725	16,650	18,425	19,600
3	28,550	34,650	38,325	40,800
4	44,650	54,225	59,950	63,800
6	100,600	122,225	135,175	143,800
8	178,325	216,875	239,850	255,200

Any tap larger shall be based on the same appropriate relationship to that charged by Columbus, so that Gahanna keeps the same amount as it did during 1999. This section shall be changed should Columbus increase their capacity charge.

The charges herein imposed shall apply to all areas annexed to the CITY Municipality subsequent to January 1, 1950, and all other areas annexed to that date which do not have access to any trunk or subtrunk sewer. However, a deduction shall be made from the charges herein imposed, wherever, and to the extent that the owner of the property concerned can show that a special assessment has been paid for such or similar trunk sanitary sewer benefit, provided that such deduction shall be limited to the amount of such special assessment so paid.

The funds received from the charges herein imposed shall be deposited in the Treasury, shall be credited to the Trunk Sanitary Sewer Fund, and shall be available for the construction, operation, maintenance, management, repair, extension or enlargement of the sanitary sewer system, and for the payment of principal and interest on any debt incurred for the construction, improvement, repair, or extension of any part of such sanitary sewer system. (Ord. 0297-2000. Passed 12-18-00.)

#### **921.05 SEWER FOOTAGE FEES.**

(a) Front Footage Fee. Before issuing any permit to tap, as set forth in this chapter, a charge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per front foot of the property to be served shall be made and collected, provided that such property has not been specially assessed for the cost of construction of a sewer to provide a lateral sewer benefit, or provided that such lateral sewer is not constructed under a private sewer agreement. Lots or parcels of ground which have the same width at the front and rear and the same depth on each side shall be charged on the basis of actual frontage. However, where the depth of such lot or parcel of ground abuts on a street or other public way and the owner elects to construct a building fronting on the street or public way abutting such depth, the fee shall be exacted for such depth.

In the event the lot or parcel of ground is irregular in shape, the front footage shall be measured on a line forty feet from the front lot line and parallel to the center line of the street. However, where the frontage is curved, it shall be measured on a line parallel to and forty feet distant from a line tangent to such curved frontage at a point midway between the sides of the lot or parcel of ground.

All amounts so collected shall be deposited in the Treasury and credited to the Sewer System Capital Improvement Fund, Trunk Sewer Fees Account.

(b) Subtrunk Sewer Footage Fees. Before connecting any property to a subtrunk sewer constructed through undeveloped lands, a charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per linear foot of the subtrunk sewer through the property to be served by such connection shall be made and collected, except under the following conditions:

- (1) Such property has been specially assessed for the cost of the sewer;
- (2) Such sewer has been constructed by the owner of such property and such owner's predecessors in interest under a private sewer agreement;
- (3) Such sewer has been constructed by the owner of such property or such owner's predecessors in interest under a separate special agreement.

These fees are to be reviewed annually by the Director of Public Service.

All amounts so collected shall be deposited in the Treasury and credited to the Sewer System Capital Improvement Fund, Trunk Sewer Fees Account. (Ord. 980308. Passed 9-8-98.)

#### **921.06 SEWER INSTALLER TAPPER PERMIT.**

Any person, firm or corporation desiring to engage in the business of installing sewer service connections to any part of the sanitary sewerage system shall make application to the Department of Public Service for an **INSTALLER'S tapper's** permit. The application for such permit shall be furnished by the **CITY Municipality** and shall be executed by the applicant and submitted together with evidence of prior experience, a performance bond on an approved company in the amount of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), a liability insurance policy in an amount approved by the Director of Public Service and an application fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). The permit shall not be transferable and shall expire on December 31 of the year in which it is issued. The **INSTALLER tapper** shall carry such permit and shall exhibit the same to any authorized agent of the **CITY Municipality** on demand. No sewer service connections shall be installed by any person, firm or corporation without an **INSTALLER'S tapper's** permit. Poor workmanship or violation of any of the regulations herein shall be sufficient cause for revocation of the permit. The application fee shall not be refundable should the permit be voided for any reason. (Ord. 68-92. Passed 4-7-92.)

#### **921.07 MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION.**

All material used and work performed in making sanitary sewer service connections must conform with regulations and standard drawings approved by the **CITY Municipal Engineer** and issued by the Department of Public Service. Substitutions shall not be made without specific written approval of the Director of Public Service.

Traps shall not be placed in the main line of the service connections and any change in direction shall be made only with curves. Basement floor drains shall be permitted only when they connect to a trap with a permanent waterseal between them and the sewer service connection. Vents shall be so constructed as to prevent foreign objects from being introduced into the sanitary sewerage system. Tee intersections shall not be permitted in any part of a sewer service connection. (Ord. 9-68. Passed 1-31-68.)

#### **921.08 INSPECTIONS.**

Each sewer service connection must be inspected, in its entirety and before being backfilled, by a duly authorized representative of the Department of Public Service, serving as Sewer Inspector. Twenty-four hours' notice must be given the Department of Public Service before starting construction of the sewer service connection. ~~If T~~the sewer service connection **MUST** ~~is determined to~~ be constructed in accordance with the **CITY Municipal specifications**, ~~the permit shall be countersigned by the Sewer Inspector. The permit shall become void if not signed by the sewer tapper, countersigned by the Sewer Inspector and returned to the office of the Department of Public Service, within thirty days after the date of issuance.~~ (Ord. 9-68. Passed 1-31-68.)

#### **921.09 GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

(a) Within fifteen days after inspection by the agent of the **CITY Municipality**, the stone, brick, earth, concrete, asphalt or other material which may have been excavated or disturbed, shall be replaced by the sewer **INSTALLER tapper** as nearly as possible to the same condition in which it was found. All rubbish and excess material shall be immediately removed, and the restored area shall be maintained by the sewer **INSTALLER tapper** until all possible trench settlement has taken place.

(b) The sewer **INSTALLER tapper** shall use care not to injure or break any other pipe or drain tile encountered during the construction. In case any such pipes, conduit or tiles are damaged, they shall be restored or replaced in as good condition as originally found, at the expense of the sewer **INSTALLER tapper**.

(c) The owner and the sewer **INSTALLER** ~~tapper~~ shall at all times have the sole responsibility to protect each opening or excavation made by such **INSTALLER** ~~tapper~~ in the public streets, roads or alleys, with sufficient barriers and caution lights to effectually guard the public from accidents and damages.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the owner to properly install the sewer service connection, and inspection shall not, in any way, relieve the owner of maintaining, operating and repairing the connection, nor shall the **CITY Municipality**, its agents or employees be liable for any damages arising from the installation or use of the sewer service connection.

(e) Plumbing for all buildings having sewer service connections to the sanitary sewer system shall be installed strictly in accordance with the **CITY Municipal** and State Building Codes. (Ord. 9-68. Passed 1-31-68.)

#### **921.10 PROHIBITIONS.**

(a) The sanitary sewer system and connections thereto shall be used exclusively for drainage of water-borne wastes from water closets, urinals, lavatories, bath tubs and showers, laundry tubs, washing machines, refrigerator drips, automatic dishwashers, drinking fountains, sinks, floor drains of all types, soda fountains and for no other purpose whatever. However, garage floor drains, when receiving oil, grease or gasoline shall not be connected to the sanitary sewer system and the residue therefrom must be disposed of by the owner.

(b) Any wastes which may cause damage to, or stoppage of the sanitary sewer system or which may interfere with the purification or treatment of sewage, shall not be permitted to enter the sanitary sewer system. If any such waste is found, the sewer connection or connections discharging the same shall be disconnected at the expense of the owner.

(c) The connection of foundation drains in any way or manner, direct or indirect, shall not be permitted under any circumstances. All such drains found to be so connected shall be immediately disconnected at the owner's expense and such use discontinued.

(d) The connection of downspout or gutter drains, or of any roof water, either directly or indirectly, shall not be permitted under any circumstances. Any such connections shall be immediately disconnected at the owner's expense and their use discontinued.

(e) The entrance of any surface water whatever shall not be permitted, regardless of the method of entrance, Any person or the officers of any firm or corporation deliberately introducing surface water into the sanitary sewer system shall suffer the penalties hereinafter set forth.

(f) No person, group of persons, firm or corporation shall maintain a private sewer system within the **CITY Municipality**, except where the sanitary sewerage system is not available for use. All buildings accessible to the sanitary sewer system shall, upon **ORDER** recommendation of the Director of Public Service ~~and order of Council~~, be required to connect to the sanitary sewer system in accordance with this chapter and the private sewer and septic tank shall be emptied and refilled with earth. (Ord. 9-68. Passed 1-31-68.)

#### **921.11 SEWER RENTAL RATES.**

(a) All lots and land served by the sanitary sewer system shall be charged rental at the following rate effective **JANUARY 1, 2000** ~~October 1, 1998~~, as recommended by the sewer rate study, with the table modified to include the surcharge in the basic rates as shown in the following tables:

Sewer Rental Table

Effective Date	Base Rate Charges Per 1,000 Gallons Water	Capital Improvement Fund	Total Charge Per 1000 Gallons
<del>October 1, 1998</del>	<del>\$ 4.09</del>		
January 1, 2000	4.30		
January 1, 2001	4.52	\$ 0.16	\$ 4.68
January 1, 2002	4.75	0.17	4.92
January 1, 2003	4.99	0.18	5.17
<b>JANUARY 1, 2004</b>	<b>5.47</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>5.66</b>

Gallons of Water per Quarter - First 6,000 or Less

Effective Date	Base Total Fee
<del>October 1, 1998</del>	<del>\$ 24.54</del>
January 1, 2000	25.80
January 1, 2001	28.08
January 1, 2002	29.52
January 1, 2003	31.02
<b>JANUARY 1, 2004</b>	<b>33.96</b>

(b) Additional billing charges incurred due to industrial use classification changes shall be charged to the individual customer(s) affected in accordance with the industrial user class charges established in Columbus City Code, Section 1147.08. These additional charges shall become a part of the quarterly bill.

(c) Quarters shall consist of three-month periods with billings commencing on a schedule to be determined by the Director of Public Service. The quarter bill, **INCLUDING ALL PENALITIES**, shall be due and payable thirty days from the date of mailing. A ten percent (10%) penalty shall be assessed to all accounts paying after the due date. A final notice granting an additional fourteen days before discontinuance of service shall be mailed to those accounts not paid in the thirty day period.

(d) Bills shall be sent quarterly, with the water bills, to the address given by the owner. The owner shall be responsible for promptly notifying the **CITY Municipality** of any change of address and no consideration shall be given for failure to do so.

(e) Any property owner who uses or intends to use the **CITY Municipal** sanitary sewer system, but does not use the water system of such **CITY Municipality**, shall be required to purchase a water meter from the **CITY Municipality** and install the same on the private water system line, in order to determine the proper sewer rental charges to be assessed. The owner must agree to permit authorized personnel to have access to read and inspect such meter and shall keep the meter in good operating condition.

(f) The Sewer Improvement Fund shall be used primarily for the retirement of bonds and notes issued for the purpose of financing sewer system capital improvements, and no moneys therein shall be used for any other purpose until and unless the Director of Finance of the City certifies that there are sufficient moneys within the Fund to make all payments necessary to retire the bonds and notes. In the event the Director of Finance so certifies, then the excess funds may be used for capital improvements and maintenance of the sewer system. Once the Director of Finance certifies that bonds and notes have been retired, the remaining moneys within the Fund, if any, shall be transferred to the General Water Fund. (Ord. 0297-2000. Passed 12-18-00.)

#### **921.12 UNPAID BILLS.**

Each sewerage charge made under or pursuant to this chapter, or amendments thereto, is hereby made a lien upon the corresponding lot, parcel of land, building or premises served by a connection to the ~~CITY Municipal~~ sanitary sewage system. If the same is not paid when it is due and payable, it shall be duly certified to the Franklin County Auditor, who shall place the same on the tax duplicate of such County with the interest and penalties allowed by law to be collected as other taxes are collected. (Ord. 9-68. Passed 1-31-68.)

#### **921.13 PARTIAL PAYMENT.**

Partial payments may be accepted. In accepting such partial payments, the amount owing shall be considered delinquent and the moneys paid shall be applied in the following order:

- (a) Refuse;
- (b) Penalty;
- (c) Sewer **IMPROVEMENT**;
- (d) Water **IMPROVEMENT**;
- (e) **SEWER** ~~Water improvement~~; and
- (f) **WATER** ~~Sewer improvement~~.

(Ord. 266-93. Passed 11-2-93.)

#### **921.14 APPLICATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND ENFORCEMENT OF COLUMBUS SEWER USAGE ORDINANCES.**

So long as the City of Gahanna discharges its sewage, industrial waste, water and other liquid waste into the transportation, pumping and treatment system of the City of Columbus, all of the provisions of Chapter 1145 of the Columbus City Code, both as they exist and as they are hereafter amended, relating to the regulation of sewage use are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable to the City sewerage system. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this chapter and Chapter 1145 of the Columbus City Code, the provisions of Chapter 1145 of the Columbus City Code shall prevail. Officers and employees of the City of Columbus are hereby empowered to enforce such provisions of the Columbus City Code within the boundaries of the City of Gahanna. (Ord. 147-90. Passed 8-21-90.)

#### **921.99 VIOLATIONS PENALTY.**

Any person or any officer of any firm or corporation, who violates any provision of this chapter shall be fined ~~not more than~~ **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY** ~~one hundred~~ dollars (\$**250.00** ~~100.00~~).

(Ord. 68-92. Passed 4-7-92.)