



City of Lubbock Code of Ordinances Chapter 22.04.009

Private Sewer Lateral Line

Ad-Hoc Committee Report

July 9, 2024



Lubbock Sewer System History



- 1920 — 1940 City of Lubbock 1st Water Reclamation Plant
- 1960 — 1990 NW Water Reclamation Plant at Clovis Hwy and Loop 289
- 1935 Plant #1 at the SEWRP (approximate date)
- 1937 City Purchased the Gray Family Farm to discharge treated effluent
- 1952 Plant #2 at the SEWRP
- 1969 Plant #3 at the SEWRP
- 1992 Plant #4 at the SEWRP
- 2007 Plant #4 upgraded to Stream Quality Water Discharge for reuse
- 2018 NW Water Reclamation Plant at Slide and Clovis

Currently the City Maintains 1,320 miles of sewer mains and 19,929 manholes
2,186 miles of water mains and 7,743 fire hydrants

Ordinance Definitions

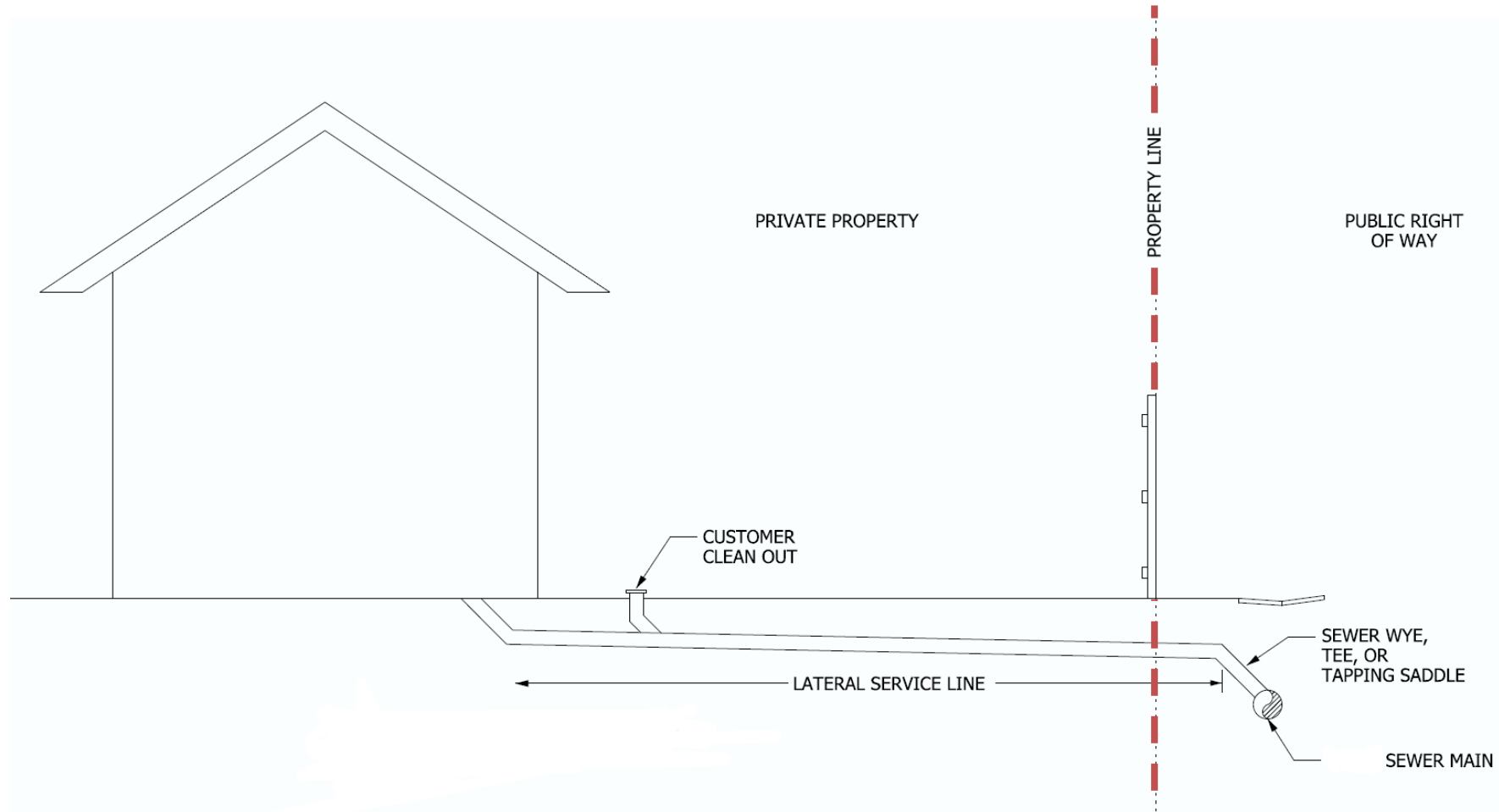
Sanitary sewer.

A publicly owned pipe or conduit designed to collect and transport industrial waste and domestic sewage.

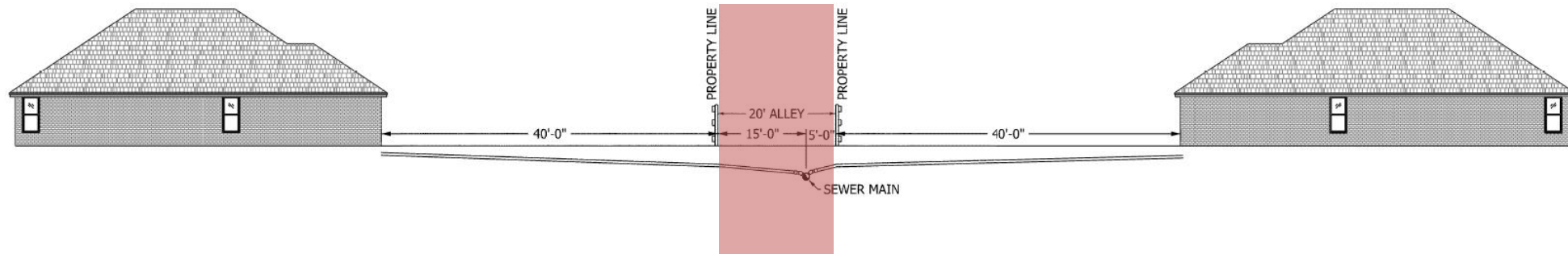
Sanitary sewer lateral line.

A privately owned sewer pipeline that carries wastewater from a home or business to the public sanitary sewer main. Private line ownership shall be from the home to the connection at the sewer wye, tee or tapping saddle connection on the sanitary sewer main.

Residential Sewer Lateral Lines



Residential Sewer Lateral Lines



Commercial Sewer Lateral Lines



This is not just a residential issue:

Commercial property is generally serviced from a sewer main in public right-of-way or alley or streets.

Lubbock Sewer Lateral History



- Prior to 1980** Plumbers were responsible for the installation of the sewer taps and lateral line maintenance
- 1980** The City took over installation of new sewer taps (not lateral line repairs)
- 2005-2006** The City took over repairs of private sewer lateral lines that required excavation in the public rights-of-way. Capital Improvement Project was created and funded with CO Bonds.
- 2021** City Ordinance was amended to allow contractors to install new sewer taps.
- 2023**
 - September 26 — 1st reading of Ordinance
 - October 10th — 2nd reading of Ordinance
 - January 8, 2024 end of 90 day grace period from adoption of Ordinance that required maintenance and repairs of sewer laterals by approved plumbers or contractors, cost covered by the landowner

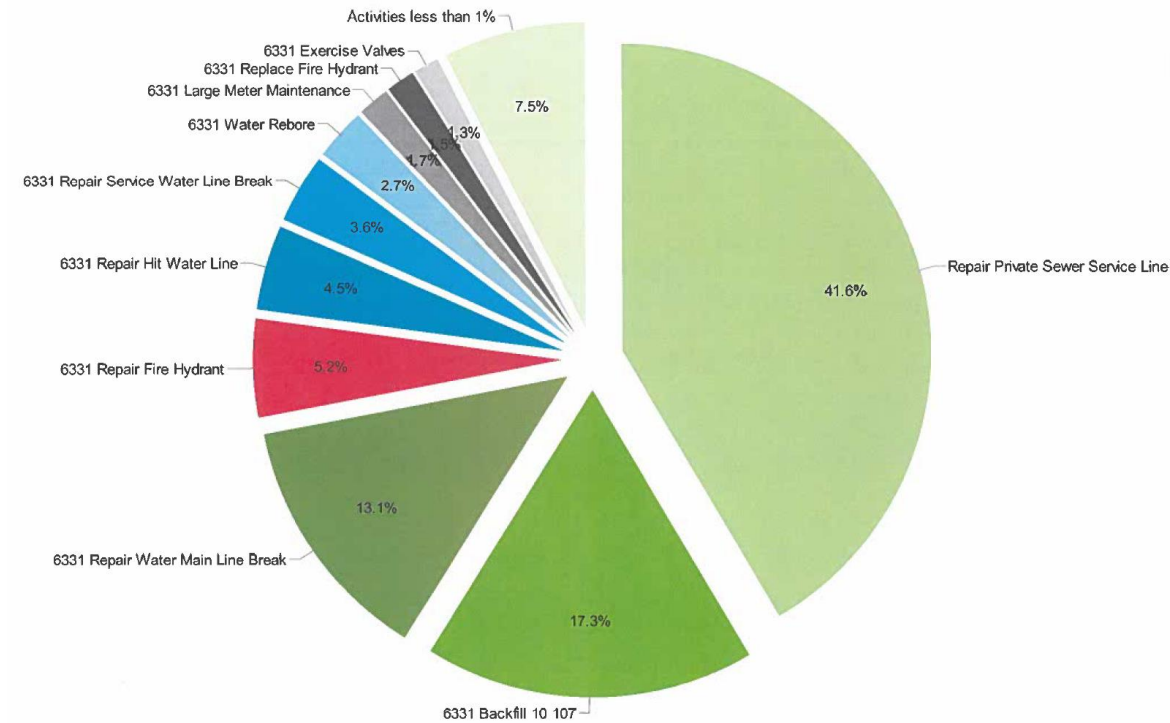
City Staff Reasoning for the Ordinance Change that Occurred on January 8, 2024



- 50% of Pipeline Maintenance time was related to Sewer Lateral repairs
- This work was resulting in deferred maintenance to the public water and public wastewater system such as:

Fire Hydrant
Valve maintenance

- Increase customer service and response time
- Allow property owner freedom to hire a plumber of their choice



Current Ordinance Chapter 22.004.009



1st Reading March 26, 2024

2nd Reading April 9, 2024

Effective April 29, 2024

- (a) The City and its designated contractors shall be the only authorized entities or persons to repair or replace the sewer wye, tee, or tapping saddle connection to the city sewer main for existing property with current sewer server and to replace the customer's lateral service line located in the city's right-of-way.

- (b) The customer shall be responsible for cleaning, clearing, removing obstructions, maintenance, and operation of the customer's sanitary sewer lateral line from the home, business, facility, or other point of service to the sewer wye, tee, or tapping saddle connection at the public sewer main. The customer shall be responsible for the repair and replacement of the customer's lateral sewer service line from the point of service to the property line.

Current Ordinance Chapter 22.004.009



- (c) The customer or customer's contractor shall acquire the proper permits and comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and policies....

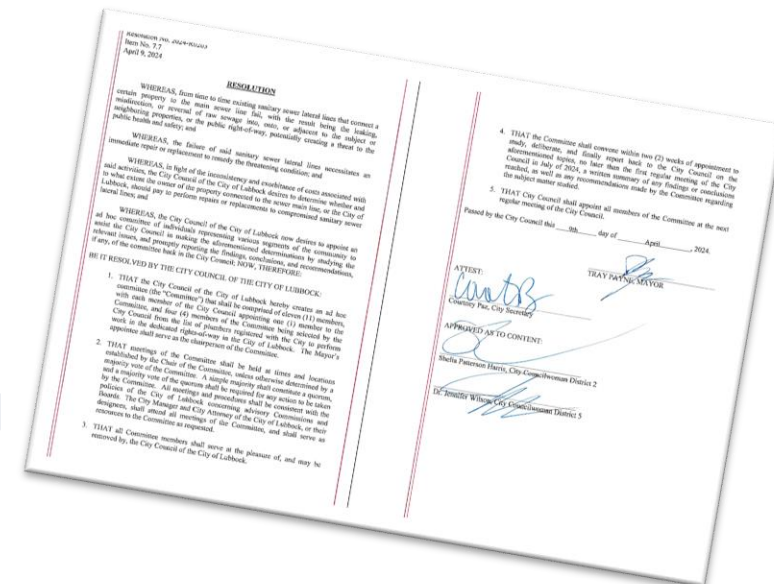
- (c) The Customer's utility contractor shall perform the proper one-call notification...

- (d) Repairs:
 - (1) **Emergency repairs:** City shall respond to emergency repairs.
 - (2) **Repair of an existing sewer wye, tee, or tapping saddle:** The City Shall respond for replacing these. "A Contractor of the customer shall not make these repairs. Rather, requests for repair shall be made directly to the water utility department by the contractor making the sanitary sewer repairs."
 - (3) **Routine repair:** Where there is service, but the tap is in need of repair. The tap repair will be scheduled and placed on the city's repair priority.. "City personnel will perform all paving or concrete repair."
 - (4) **Sewer Lateral Service in Right-of-way:** "The request for repair of a sewer lateral service line in the city's right-of-way or alley, shall be made directly to the water utility department by a licensed plumber. The plumber must mark the location of the sewer connection and or lateral service with paint or pin flags."

Ad-Hoc Committee Resolution 2024-RO2023



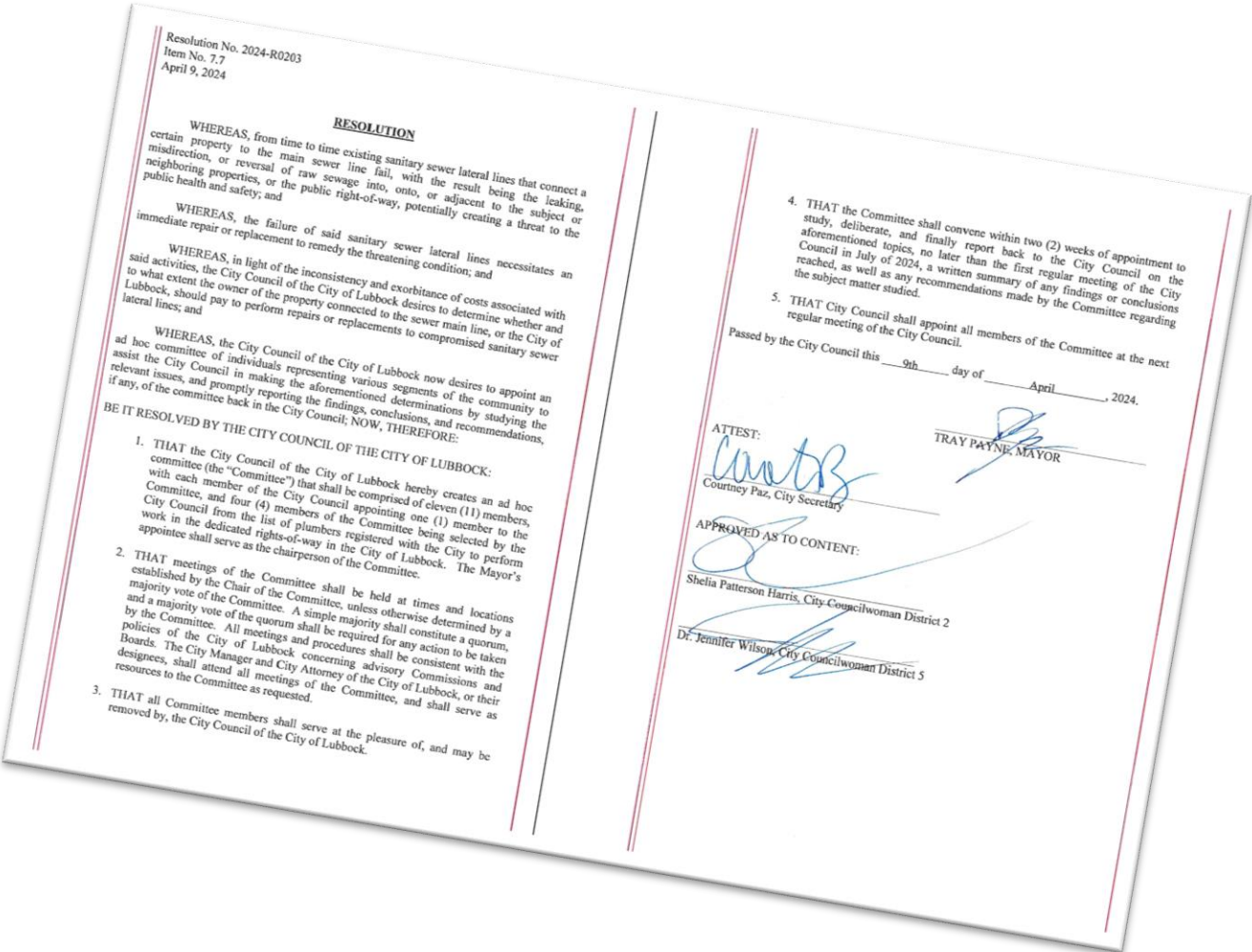
- Convene in two weeks from appointment of committee members on April 23, 2024
- The City Council desires to determine whether and to what extent the owner of the property connected to the sewer main line, or the City of Lubbock should pay to perform repairs or replacement to compromised sanitary sewer lateral lines.
- Committee is tasked with ... “studying the relevant issues and promptly reporting the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, if any in regards to” the sanitary sewer lateral lines.
- 11 members:
 - 6 representing council district
 - 1 chair appointed by the mayor
 - 4 representing plumbing contractors
- Provide written summary at the July 9, 2024, City Council Meeting



Ad-Hoc Committee Resolution 2024-R02023



- Chair Jeff Reese,
- District 1 Jaime De La Cruz,
- District 2 Drew Landry
- District 3 Jaret “Jet” Seidemann
- District 4 Justin Backus
- District 5 Dale Hansard
- District 6 Matthew Hadley
- Plumber Mark Branscome
- Plumber Eric Hurst
- Plumber Randy Lopez
- Plumber Joe Rushing



Committee Report to City Council

Ad-Hoc Committee Public Meetings



Meeting #1	May 2, 2024
Meeting #2	May 9, 2024
Meeting #3	May 15, 2024
Meeting #4	May 30, 2024
Meeting #5	June 5, 2024
Meeting #6	June 12, 2024
Meeting #7	June 20, 2024
Meeting #8	June 25, 2024
Meeting #9	June 26, 2024
Meeting #10	July 3, 2024

Ad-Hoc Committee Report and Recommendations



1.
 - i. This committee recommends that the City of Lubbock continue to financially participate in private sewer lateral line replacement within the public right-of-way. The City's financial commitment should be a one-time subsidy not to exceed \$2,500 per existing individual private sewer lateral line located in the public Right-of-Way. This one-time subsidy would be paid directly to the plumber or contractor on behalf of the property owner.
 - ii. This committee recommends that the property owner is financially responsible for the remaining balance
2. This committee recommends that all pipe materials are eligible for this subsidy.
3. This committee recommends that eligibility for the subsidy is contingent upon failure of the pipe structural integrity, including collapse, root damage, joint separation, and excluding failures due to inappropriate materials introduced into the pipe resulting in a blockage of flow. Pipe strikes and warranty failures are not eligible for subsidy as these would be covered by the contractors who performed the work through a claims process.
4. This committee recommends that only privately licensed plumbers or TCEQ approved contractors with a Class III collections license that are registered with the City of Lubbock Right-of-Way Department shall be allowed to work within the public right-of-way on private sewer lateral lines. This committee recommends that all asphalt and concrete paving repairs be funded and performed by the City of Lubbock.
5. This committee recommends that all asphalt and concrete paving repairs be funded and performed by the City of Lubbock.

Ad-Hoc Committee Report and Recommendations



6. This committee recommends that City Council provide the appropriate City resources to adequately implement this program, including resources related to administration, inspection, and public education.
7. This committee recommends that only residential properties are eligible for this subsidy.
8. This committee unanimously recommends that the City of Lubbock adopt a low-income financial assistance program to assist these property owners in the cost above the City of Lubbock's one-time subsidy.
9. This committee recommends that City Council consider a reimbursement not to exceed \$2,500 per lateral line as recommended above for those property owners that replaced and funded their private sewer lateral line between January 8, 2024 and April 29, 2024 when the City Ordinance required such.
10. This committee recommends that City Council consider implementing a thorough process to provide public education on and communication of this topic including education efforts related to sewer lateral line maintenance on behalf of the property owner.
11. This committee finds that it would be prudent for these recommendations to be reviewed annually with the City Budget process to make necessary changes due to economics, development, construction methods, and materials.

Thank you !