



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

To: Mayor Graham and City Council
From: Dennis Sullivan, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Walter Denton, City Administrator
Date: April 3, 2006
Subject: ORDINANCE – Sewer Averaging Amendment to Ordinance

List of committees that have reviewed: Public Works

Background: The existing sewer rate charge ordinance has language specifying an averaging of charges over 3 summer months based on previous 9 months of water usage to account for water that does not go into the sanitary sewer during the summer months. The conclusion that the previous 9 months of data averaged accurately depicts the usage of water and resultant sanitary sewer usage is flawed. Enactment of such a program across the board to all users of the sanitary system for 4 month which was discussed at the Committee meeting would mean that the existing rates would have to be raised by 10% or greater to make up for the lost revenue of such a program. Currently, water system users that have in-ground lawn irrigation devices, automatic swimming pool filling devices, etc. are required by the Illinois Plumbing Code to have backflow devices on their water service. The inspection and repair of the backflow device costs on average more than \$100 per year. Applying sewer averaging to those users would help defray the cost of the inspections and maintenance and encourage compliance with the state and O'Fallon codes requiring backflows and inspections.

Legal Considerations, if any: None.

Budget Impact: Enactment of the language as written would cost approximately \$30,000. Across the board averaging of all accounts in O'Fallon is more than \$300,000.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends passage of the ordinance.