

POLICY ON COMPENSATION OF PROFESSIONAL PLUMBERS FINDING SEWER MAIN FLOW ISSUES

Policy initially created and approved by the City Council on October 7, 2009

The intent of this policy is to provide benefits and safeguards for all effected parties. For plumbers it ensures compensation for a valuable service without a large outlay of time, effort, or expense. Plumbers are usually the first to be contacted when property owners and tenants suspect problems with their sewers (i.e. backups, blockages, slow flows, etc.) For the City it provides an additional safeguard to ensure an adequately performing sewer distribution system. For property owners or tenants it can minimize or eliminate the expense of a service call if the problem is found to be with the city's sewer distribution system as opposed to the privately owned service line.

Recognizing the value and benefits, it will be the policy of the City to compensate professional plumbers up to \$100 per event when called for service and determining the source of a problem is the city's sewer main. To qualify:

1. **Inspect the Manhole as a First Step in Troubleshooting.** Upon arrival to the property, the plumber should do an initial inspection of the nearest manhole downstream of the property to ensure there is proper flow. This inspection should be performed before any other cost bearing activities are performed.
2. **Contact a City Representative.** If it is determined that the cause of the service call is likely due to a problem with the sewer main, the plumber must promptly contact a city official to advise them of the situation. For purposes of this policy, a city official is any elected official, a Sarcoxie Police Officer, or a City Hall or Public Works employee. The call should clearly state the location and description of the problem and a phone number that the plumber can be reached.
3. **Inform the Property Owner** that the problem appears to be caused by the city's sewer distribution system before any additional cost bearing activities are performed.

Qualifiers and Restrictions:

1. One service call per incident even if multiple properties are effected by the same blockage.
2. The city can request the plumber perform additional work to correct the sewer main issue. It is understood that an additional fee for this service will be applicable for the city to cover.
3. The on-scene city representative can approve up to \$300 per service line to be applied for any work done to the service line resulting from the issues with the sewer main.
 - a. If it is the opinion of involved parties that the blocked sewer main has resulted in obstructions in the property owner's service line, the City Council will consider additional compensation to the plumber or property owner to clear the blockage in the service line.
 - b. The city will not be responsible for any additional costs associated with the service call unless pre-approved by a city official.
4. Any billing for service under this program must be submitted to City Hall and approved by the Council at the next council meeting under the category of unpaid bills. The bill should include date of service, who and when originally contacted the plumber, what was found upon arrival, and what city representative was involved.