



ORDINANCE NO. 25-720

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINSTON, OREGON, CITY COUNCIL AMENDING TITLE 5 OF THE WINSTON MUNICIPAL CODE PLACING A MORATORIUM ON THE STEP SYSTEM PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS under Title V of the Municipal Code residential users can install Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) systems where their residence cannot be served by a standard gravity sewer connection; and,

WHEREAS STEP systems are required to be maintained by the City and the lack of annual maintenance results in complete replacements of pumps motors and other electrical connections as a result of the caustic environment they are installed in; and,

WHEREAS the city has determined the program to be unsustainable and now stands in need of placing a moratorium on its growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WINSTON, OREGON, CITY COUNCIL HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Title V, Section 50.043 (C)(2), septic tank effluent pump system allowed as alternative to standard system is further amended as follows:

(2) Upon final approval by the city, the property owner shall ~~dedicate the STEP system, including the service lateral for the septic tank to the sewer main, the tank, pump and pump controls, to the city, along with an easement permitting the city to enter onto the property to inspect, operate and maintain the system~~ **shall sign a waiver acknowledging full responsibility for all aspects of the STEP system. Such waiver shall declare the STEP system private and provide information on whom the property owners may contact for needed assistance for repair or replacement at their expense.** ~~The city shall not be responsible for any damage to the landscaping resulting from accessing the STEP system to inspect, operate and maintain the system.~~

(3) Prior to final approval ~~and acceptance by the city~~, the property owner shall be responsible for the installation, operation and maintenance of the STEP system, pursuant to the requirements of the city.

~~(D) Following approval of the STEP system by the city and acceptance by the city, the city shall own operate and maintain the system, except that the property owner shall continue to be responsible for the cost of electricity necessary to operate the system. The sewer line from the benefitted structure to the STEP system shall continue to be owned and maintained by the property owner.~~

~~(E)~~ (D) If a STEP system becomes inoperable because of failure to pay electric costs or any other reason, the city may declare the property benefitted to be unfit for human habitation. At least five days prior to issuing this declaration, the city shall send written notice to the owner and occupant, if different from the owner. The owner or occupant

may request a hearing before the City Council prior to the declaration. The decision of the City Council shall be final. All of the property shall have 24 hours from the issuance of the declaration to vacate the premises. Premises shall remain uninhabited until the system is restored to operation and the city rescinds the declaration in writing.

~~(F)(1) The property owner or customer shall undertake no alteration or repair of the installed STEP system, including covering or obstructing access to the pump, cleanouts and lockout switch, without prior written approval of the city. Any damage caused to the public system by the owner, occupant, agents or invitees shall be repaired by the city at the owner's expense. (2) The expense shall be billed and collected with the utility fee if the owner is the customer or otherwise has a utility account with the city. The expense shall be billed to the owner directly if the owner is not the customer or has no other utility account with the city.~~

SECTION 2. This Ordinance will be in full force and effect on the day it is adopted by Council.

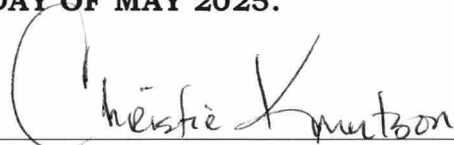
FIRST READING AND ADOPTION BY THE CITY OF WINSTON, OREGON CITY COUNCIL ON THIS 19TH DAY OF MAY 2025.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS 19TH DAY OF MAY 2025.

Attest:



Cindy M. Sarti, City Recorder



Christie Knutson, Mayor