

ORDINANCE NO. O-24-22

**An Ordinance Amending Title 8, Chapter 5 of the Prospect Heights City Code
Relating to Sewer Service Fee Collections**

WHEREAS, the City of Prospect Heights operates a sewerage system within the City, including the former “Old Town” system; and

WHEREAS, the City commissioned a sewer rate study to evaluate the financial condition of the sewer system and offer a proposed rate structure; and

WHEREAS, the City Council collects fees for sewer service to provide maintenance and repairs and replacement of sewer infrastructure to ensure reliable sewer service to our customers; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Prospect Heights has determined it is in the best interest of the City to aggressively seek payment from delinquent customers;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROSPECT HEIGHTS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1: Each of the foregoing recitals and findings are hereby made a part of this Ordinance and are incorporated by reference as if set forth verbatim herein.

SECTION 2: That Title 1, PUBLIC WAYS AND PROPERTY, Chapter 5, Sewers, of the Prospect Heights City Code, as amended, is hereby further amended with deletions in ~~striketrough~~ and additions in **bold, underlined text** so that the same shall be read as follows:

8-5-3: COLLECTIONS:

In the event that charges for sewer services are not paid within thirty (30) days of rendition of the bill for such service; such charges shall be deemed and are hereby declared to be delinquent, and thereafter such delinquencies may be sent to collections and which the delinquent party is responsible for any additional administrative fees or penalties associated with the collections process and these fees and penalties be in addition to any fees and penalties owed to the City of Prospect Heights for sewer service.

8-5-3A: LIEN:

In the event that charges for sewer services are not paid within thirty (30) days of rendition of the bill for such service; such charges shall be deemed and are hereby declared to be delinquent, and thereafter such delinquencies shall constitute a lien upon the real estate for which such service is supplied, and the City Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to file sworn statements showing such delinquencies in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County or with the Registrar of Titles of Cook County, if applicable, and the filing of such statements shall be deemed notice of the lien of such charges for such service.

SECTION 3: That the rates and charges for sanitary sewer service, as provided herein, shall be effective with all billings dated November 1, 2024 and thereafter.

SECTION 4: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

PASSED and APPROVED this 11th day of November, 2024

ATTEST:


~~Patrick Ludvigsen, Mayor~~
Acting Mayor Matt Delick


City Clerk



AYES: Cameron, Anderson, Dash, Delick

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Morgan-Adams



October 24, 2024

To: Mayor Ludvigsen and Members of the City Council
Joe Wade, City Administrator

From: Bob Tannehill, Assistant Finance Director

Subject: Ordinance amending Title 8, Chapter 5 of the Prospect Heights City Code relating to sewer service fee collections.

Background:

The City contracts with (MCSI) Municipal Collection Services, Inc. to pursue collection efforts for unpaid municipal tickets, redlight camera tickets, vehicle sticker tickets, unpaid balances for utility services and other miscellaneous receivables. As part of that agreement, Municipal Collection Services, Inc., charges a collection fee on the unpaid balance for their services.

Analysis:

Title 8, Chapter 5 of the Prospect Heights City Code relating to water and sewer service does not address the City's collection fees associated with the collection process charged to the City when water and sewer charges become delinquent and are submitted to our collection agency.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend an ordinance amending Title 8, Chapter 5 of the Prospect Heights City Code to include a provision stipulating that any collection fees or late charges related to collection of unpaid water and sewer balances be added to the delinquent balance and paid for by the resident.