

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Jed Petersen, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Private Well Sealing

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

BACKGROUND

When a building is connected to city water, the private water supply may be used only for irrigation purposes. It is in the City's best interest to require that these private wells be sealed. Wells that go unused or have very limited use can become contaminated and potentially contaminate the water supply.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Update the ordinance to require a property owner to seal the private well at the time of connection to city water.

When a property that is connected to city water but also maintains a private well be required to seal the well when the property is sold.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Motion and approval to move forward with changing the city ordinance.

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 407
SECOND SERIES**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CANNON FALLS, MINNESOTA AMENDING
CITY CODE CHAPTERS 51 AND 52 RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES**

THE CITY OF CANNON FALLS ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. City Code Section 51.14 is amended by deleting the ~~striketrough~~ language and adding the underlined language as follows:

§ 51.14 MANDATORY CONNECTION TO PUBLIC SYSTEMS.

(A) Except as expressly provided in City Code § 151.112, ~~it~~ is unlawful for any person to install a private water system or a private sewer system in the city.

(B) Within 12 months after the public sanitary sewer system or water system is extended to serve property, all property served by private water and sewer systems must connect to public sewer and water. If private utilities fail, create a nuisance or become a health hazard, the connection to the public system must be made without delay. When a property ~~connection is made~~ is connected to the public sewer and water system, all private sewer and water utilities on or serving the property must be disabled in accordance with State Department of Health and State Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) rules and shall not be used for any purpose.

Section 2. City Code Section 52.05 is amended by deleting the ~~striketrough~~ language and adding the underlined language as follows:

§ 52.05 PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

No water pipe of the city water system shall be connected with any pump, well, pipe, tank or any device that is connected with any other source of water supply and when such are found, the city shall notify the owner or occupant to disconnect the same and, if not immediately done, the city water shall be turned off. Before any new connections to the city system are permitted, the city shall ascertain that no cross connections will exist when the new connection is made. When a ~~building property~~ property is connected to ~~city~~ the public water system or sold, transferred, or otherwise conveyed, ~~the private water supply may be used only for irrigation purposes~~ all private water utilities on or serving the property must be disabled in accordance with State Department of Health and State Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and shall not be used for any purpose. ~~A permit must be obtained from the city prior to using the water for irrigation.~~ Private utilities must meet all requirements as outlined by the State Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the

State Department of Health including all permit requirements. Private utilities are not authorized in the public right-of-way. This is exclusive of the service line rules that are found in the city code.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls, Minnesota, this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator