

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-____

AN ORDINANCE OF PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING CHAPTER 18, PART 3 OF THE PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP CODE TO DEFINE ADDITIONAL TERMS; TO AMEND APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS; TO PROHIBIT THE DISCHARGE OF STORMWATER INTO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE STANDARDS TO PREVENT SUCH DISCHARGE; TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR SEWER LATERAL INSPECTIONS BY THE BUCKS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY; TO REQUIRE REPAIRS TO DEFECTIVE LATERALS BY PROPERTY OWNERS; TO ESTABLISH MAINTENANCE STANDARDS; AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 18, PART 4 TO REQUIRE GREASE INTERCEPTORS WHERE GREASE-LADEN WASTE IS GENERATED AND TO PROHIBIT ANY DISCHARGES WHICH INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors is empowered to enact legislation in furtherance of the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors finds that the public health, safety, and welfare are detrimentally affected by Sanitary Sewer Laterals from properties connected to the public sewage system in which inflow and infiltration into the Laterals cause excessive flows resulting in overflows of sewage and discharges of untreated or improperly treated sewage.

WHEREAS, the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors desires to enact legislation authorizing the inspection of Sanitary Sewer Laterals to facilitate and, if necessary, require repair of all Sanitary Sewer Laterals where inflow or infiltration are found.

The Board of Supervisors of Plumstead Township hereby enacts and ordains the following Ordinance:

ARTICLE I

Chapter 18, Part 3, Section 301 relating to definitions is hereby amended to include the following terms and definitions which shall read as follows:

CESSPOOL- An underground container designed and intended for the temporary storage of wastewater and water-carried wastes.

NOTICE- Any written notice provided for or required under this article may be made and/or delivered either by personal service made at the subject property, or by registered mail, return receipt requested sent to the last known address of the property owner.

SANITARY SEWER LATERAL- A pipe or pipes designed and intended to transport or convey waste water and water-carried wastes (excluding surface drainage water) from the interior of a structure and connecting into the sanitary sewer system serving the property.

SEPTIC TANK- See “Cesspool.”

STORM SEWER- A system of pipes and other collection and conveyance facilities designed and intended to transport or convey only surface drainage waters to stormwater collection and management facilities and/or to drainage channels, tributaries, creeks, streams, lakes, and/or ponds.

SURFACE DRAINAGE WATERS- Diffuse waters originating from rain, sleet, melting snow or other similar natural sources, which runs off or from public and/or private property and public and/or private streets and into storm sewers, drainage channels, tributaries, creeks, streams, lakes, and/or ponds.

ARTICLE II

Section 18-302(3) relating to Applications for Connections shall be repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following provision:

§18-302(3) Application for Connections.

In order to connect to the public sanitary sewer in Plumstead Township, the landowner shall apply to the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority for a sanitary sewer connection using their prescribed forms and procedures and obtain a plumbing permit from Plumstead Township.

ARTICLE III

Chapter 18, Part 3, Section 18-304 is hereby amended to clarify the authority of Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority to enter upon properties connected to public sewer for the purpose of inspection, so that Section 18-304 reads as follows:

§18-304- Inspections

A. **Power and Authority of Inspectors.** The owner of any property located in Plumstead Township whose structure or building is connected to a Municipal Wastewater System, by virtue of connection to the Municipal Wastewater

System, shall allow the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority or its agents, bearing proper credentials, to enter upon their property at a reasonable hour and with reasonable notice for the purposes of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, and testing of sewage disposal systems, including but not limited to sewer laterals which may be inspected visually or by video.

B. Results of Inspections.

1. The purpose of the inspection provided by this Ordinance is to locate any inflow and infiltration into the Sanitary Sewer Lateral; to make sure that there are not any holes or damage in or to the Sanitary Sewer Lateral; to verify that all clean-outs and/or vents are properly capped and not damaged.
2. If upon completion of an inspection the lateral is found to be defective, based upon the Authority's rules, regulations, and resolutions and/or sound engineering practice, the lateral pipe shall be replaced or realigned. At the discretion of the Authority, there may be limited permission granted for spot repairs. Any pipe replacement/realigning/spot repair shall be performed by a master plumber in accordance with the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code and Plumbing Code requirements as adopted by the Township.

C. Costs of Inspections. The BCWSA shall be responsible for the costs related to inspection of laterals. However, if the BCWSA or its agent observes, during the televised inspection of the lateral, any inflow, infiltration, illegal connection, damage, or holes in or about the lateral or clean-out, the Owner of the Improved Property shall be obligated to repair the lateral as directed by the BCWSA.

ARTICLE IV

Chapter 18, Part 3, is hereby amended to create a new section 18-311 titled "Maintenance Standards" and renumbering the existing §311 and §312 accordingly. The new Section 311 shall read as follows:

§18-311- Maintenance Standards

- A. All lateral joints shall be tight and all pipes shall be sound to prevent exfiltration by wastewater or infiltration by groundwater or stormwater
- B. A sanitary sewer lateral pipe shall be free of any structural defects, cracks, breaks, rodent holes, or missing portions thereof, and the grade or pitch of such lateral shall be uniform without sags or offsets.
- C. Area drains, foundation drains, roof leaders, sump pumps or other direct connections into a sanitary sewer lateral that allow stormwater or groundwater to enter into that Sanitary Sewer Lateral are prohibited.

ARTICLE V

Chapter 18, Part 4, Section 412 relating to Prohibited Wastes shall be amended with the addition of a new subsection 18-412.F which shall read as follows:

§18-412.F. Any other pollutant, wastewater or water-carried waste that will interfere with the operation or performance of any sanitary sewer system. Any and all contributions and/or discharges into any sanitary sewer system shall comply, in all respects, with the current specifications, rules, and regulations of the Township and/or of the applicable municipal authority or operator of such sanitary sewer system and/or facilities for the same as may be in effect from time to time.

Chapter 18, Part 4, relating to Sewer Rentals shall be amended with the inclusion of a new Section 18-415 and Section 18-416. The existing §18-415 through §18-417 shall be renumbered to §18-417 through §18-419, accordingly. The new Section 18-415 shall read as follows:

§18-415 Grease Interceptors Required.

- A. In any and all structures in which grease-laden waste is generated, including but not limited to structures containing restaurants, hotel kitchens, bars, factory cafeterias, school cafeterias, or other similar food preparation and/or grease-laden waste generating areas of the same, a grease interceptor shall be required to receive any and all drainage, wastewater and water-carried waste from any and all such areas of such structures. Food waste grinders shall not discharge to a building drainage system through a grease interceptor.
- B. Grease interceptors shall be installed and maintained in an accessible location, and shall remain accessible and unobstructed at all times.
- C. Grease interceptors shall be cleaned not less than two times per week, or at such frequency as may be determined necessary in the discretion of the Township and/or of the applicable municipal authority or operator of the sanitary sewer system and/or facilities serving the subject property. Property owners shall maintain an ongoing written log or record of all grease interceptor cleanings for a period of not less than 24 months.
- D. Grease interceptors shall be subject to inspection at the discretion of the Township and/or of the applicable municipal authority or operator of the sanitary sewer system and/or facilities serving the subject property to insure compliance with this section. The Township may from time to time establish, by resolution, an annual fee associated with the inspection of grease interceptors.
- E. For all properties and/or structures identified in this section, grease interceptors shall be required for all new or existing connections to the sanitary sewer system,

which such connections shall also be in conformance with the International Building Plumbing Code, as adopted by the Township, without exception.

The new §18-416 shall read as follows:

§18-416 Discharge of Stormwater through Sewer Laterals Prohibited

- A. A property owner is solely responsible, in all respects, for the proper installation, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of any and every sanitary sewer lateral located on a property.
- B. No property owner may permit the discharge of stormwater into the sanitary sewer system, and all property owners shall maintain the sanitary sewer laterals connected to their buildings and structures in such fashion as to prevent the infiltration of stormwater into the sewer system.
- C. All private building sewer laterals shall be fitted with vent caps which are manufactured to fit the type and size of vent pipe affixed to the lateral, and which shall provide a tight seal against the inflow of stormwater under high precipitation conditions. Vent caps must be set a minimum of four inches above grade, but not less than a height sufficient to preclude the flow of stormwater into the vent.
- D. Cleanout caps on sanitary sewer laterals shall be appropriately fitted and secured to provide a tight seal against inflow of stormwater under high precipitation conditions.
- E. All lateral joints shall be tight and all pipes shall be sound to prevent exfiltration by wastewater or infiltration by groundwater or stormwater.
- F. A sanitary sewer lateral pipe shall be free of any structural defects, cracks, breaks, rodent holes, or missing portions thereof, and the grade or pitch of such lateral shall be uniform without sags or offsets.
- G. Area drains, foundation drains, roof leaders, sump pumps or other direct connections into a sanitary sewer lateral that allow stormwater or groundwater to enter into that sanitary sewer lateral are prohibited.
- H. Sanitary sewer laterals may flow by either gravity or by pressurized systems, such as a grinder pump system.
- I. Sanitary sewer laterals and grinder pump systems shall be subject to inspection at the discretion of the Township and/or of the applicable municipal authority or operator of the sanitary sewer system and/or facilities serving the subject property to insure compliance with this section. Further, the Township may inspect or require proof of inspection of any building sewer lateral connection, in order to insure the integrity of the connection and compliance with this section, prior to the issuance of any use and occupancy permit for any property and/or

any structure located thereupon. The Township may from time to time establish, by resolution, an annual fee associated with the inspection of sanitary sewer lateral connections.

ARTICLE VI REPEALER

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE VII SEVERABILITY

If any sentence, clause, section or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Board of Supervisors of Plumstead Township, that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause or section or part thereof not been included therein.

ARTICLE VIII EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 12th day of May, A.D., 2020.

**PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Peter Busillo, Chair

Dan Hilferty, Vice Chair

Jim McComb, Treasurer

Ken Lichenstein, Secretary

Brian Trymbiski

ATTEST:

Angela P. Benner, Township Manager
Plumstead Township