

RESOLUTION NO. 01 - 25

By: Jess Saad

A Resolution to support the ongoing investment in the repair and replacement of sewer infrastructure, and to support the planned refresh of the City's sewer study and sewer plan.

Whereas: In 2014, the City completed a partial study of the sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure and submitted a multi-decade sewer improvement plan to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) in conjunction with the Ohio EPA's Director's Final Findings and Orders (DFFO) placed on the City of Columbus Satellite Communities in 2009; and

Whereas: The goal of the Orders is for the Satellite Communities to properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of its sewer system and to: Provide adequate capacity to convey base flows and peak flows for all parts of the sewer system; take all feasible steps to stop Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and Water-in-Basements (WIBs) and to mitigate the impact of SSOs and WIBs from the Sewer System; minimize excessive infiltration and inflow (I&I); and provide notification to parties with a reasonable potential for exposure to pollutants associated with an overflow event. As part of the DFFO requirements, the City of Bexley was required to complete a Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) of the entire sanitary sewer system, which was completed in 2014, but specified additional studies in the future;

Whereas: Since that date, the City has completed over \$4,180,000 in sewer infrastructure repairs and improvements in keeping with a planned investment of \$12,989,920 to \$21,974,000 (in 2014 dollars) over a 26 year period, as called for in Ordinance 23-13 and the surrounding 2014 DFFO response submittal process which included the passage of Resolution 04-14, approving the submittal of the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey Findings and Implementation Schedule; and

Whereas: The improvement of the City's sewer system is necessary due to the fundamental need to replace aging infrastructure to ensure system integrity; to make continuous improvements to the reliability and capacity of the system in order to provide a better service to our residents; and to comply with state and federal regulations designed to eliminate inflow and infiltration between the sanitary and storm systems; and

Whereas: The 2014 DFFO Summary Report submittal by the City called for an initial period of repair and improvements in the City's sewer infrastructure, followed by additional study to determine the next phase of improvements (Implementation Schedule 9-1); and

Whereas: The City engineer has opined that the focus areas in the 2014 DFFO plan have not been substantiated by ensuing data and field observations, and a revised study and strategy is necessary in order to ensure that future investments are targeted to provide maximal value and impact; and

Whereas: The City has worked with engineering and staff to scope out a comprehensive sewer study, both to be in compliance with the 2014 DFFO Summary Report and, most importantly, to help craft the next phase of necessary sewer system improvements; and

Whereas: The 2025/2026 comprehensive sewer study is planned in two phases, with the first phase planned for 2025 and already approved in the 2025 budget. The current scope specifies a Phase I study cost of \$500,000, with a Phase II study cost estimated at \$676,098; and

Whereas: The study includes extensive profiling and physical inspection of the City's sanitary and storm infrastructure as well as property-side connections; a sophisticated model of both systems crafted from the field inspection data and system specifications; and a long-term strategy for investment in future system repairs and improvements; and

Whereas: The 2025/2026 planned study is expected to yield higher quality and more reliable data necessary to better plan future improvements and to provide an updated budget for the ensuing decades; and

Whereas: It has been many years since Council reviewed the City's sewer improvement plans, and the decade that has passed, along with the DFFO required refresh study, is a fitting benchmark for Council to re-affirm the City's commitment to compliance with Ohio EPA orders and to ongoing and data-driven improvements to the City's sewer systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEXLEY:

Section 1.

That City Council supports the ongoing investigation of and investment in to the City's sanitary and storm sewer systems in order to ensure the installation of system repairs and improvements that reduce the negative impacts from flooding; provide a higher quality of service to residents; reduce the impact of inflow and infiltration into the Alum Creek watershed; and comply with the Orders of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Furthermore, City Council recognizes that the 2025/2026 Sewer System Study is a requirement of the City's 2014 DFFO Summary Report, and that the study will result in a refreshed strategy for sewer repairs and improvements.

Section 2.

That City Council supports the Board of Control in awarding the 2025/2026 Sewer Study Update contract, understanding that the second phase of the contract, if executed, would entail additional funding in the 2026 appropriations process, and that the ongoing study, repair, and improvement to the City's sewer system is a continuing requirement of the Ohio EPA's DFFO for Bexley.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: _____, 2025

Monique Lampke, President of Council

Attest: _____
Matt McPeek, Clerk of Council

Approved: _____, 2025

Ben Kessler, Mayor

First Reading: February 25, 2025
Second Reading:
Third Reading: