

Ordinance 60 - 20

By: Troy Markham

An Ordinance to create the Bexley Residential Sewer Remediation loan program.

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 and May 19, 2020, central Ohio experienced two 25-year flood events that surged sanitary and storm sewers throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, during periods of heavy precipitation, rain water can enter into the Sanitary Sewer System, causing it to become overwhelmed; this is known as “inflow and infiltration” or “I/I.” Significant I/I causes the Sanitary System to overflow into streams and rivers (which events are known as “sanitary sewer overflows” or “SSOs”) and also causes the System to backup into basements (known as “water in basements” or “WIBs”); and

WHEREAS, in addition to focusing on improvements to municipal infrastructure, the City of Bexley has determined that a substantial portion of the I/I is from leaking and/or deteriorated private sanitary laterals as well as downspouts and foundation drains which are connected to the System; and

WHEREAS, the City has also determined that an important method of addressing the contribution from these sources is to ensure the rehabilitation or replacement of private sanitary laterals as well as to disconnect and/or redirect downspouts away from the perimeter of the house and to encourage the installation of sump pumps in order to redirect water pressure away from foundations; and

WHEREAS, SSOs and WIBs allow sewage to escape from the System and potentially allow human contact with the raw sewage. Raw sewage contains many pathogens which are associated with illnesses; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that excessive I/I which results in SSOs and WIBs are a potential threat to public health, safety and the environment and other natural resources and thereby constitute public nuisances; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that it is necessary and appropriate and in the best interest of the City and its inhabitants to provide for the abatement of the nuisance conditions caused by excessive I/I; and

WHEREAS, In furthering these objectives, a Residential Sewer Remediation Loan Program is proposed, in order to assist residents with the cost of repairing I/I at the property level;

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

Section 1.

That the Mayor is authorized to administer a Bexley Residential Sewer Remediation Loan Program (“Loan Program”) based upon the following criteria:

1. **Eligibility.** Eligible property owners must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Must be an owner-occupant of the property requiring remediation.
 - b. An initial inspection, performed under the terms and conditions of the Residential Sewer Remediation Program, must have been performed.
 - c. All repairs that are required based upon the initial inspection must be completed before the disbursal of any loan funds.
2. **Down payment.** After the funds from the \$2,000 Residential Sewer Remediation Grant pursuant to Ordinance 27-20 have been applied, property owners are liable for the next \$3,000 of expenses associated with Sewer Remediation prior to being eligible for the Loan Program.
3. **Maximum loan.** The maximum loan amount for any individual property shall be \$15,000.
4. **Loan terms.** The Auditor shall establish an interest rate and any additional loan terms or conditions that he or she deems necessary and not inconsistent with applicable law; the established interest rate shall be based upon the rate at which the City could secure a ten-year non-tax revenue bond. The loan shall be payable, via special assessment against the property, over a ten year period, with annual payments based upon a ten year amortization at the interest rate established by the Auditor.
5. **Appropriation.** Funding for the Residential Sewer Remediation Loan Program shall be provided via an appropriation from the Sewer Fund, and the Loan Program shall be made available to applicants on a first-come, first-served basis based upon available appropriation.
6. **Additional Funding for Loan Program.** The Auditor, may, if he or she deems necessary, pursue bond financing for the Loan Program, subject to approval by Council.

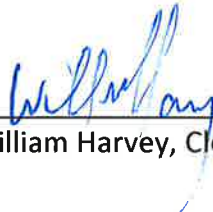
Section 2.

That this Ordinance shall go into effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: JAN. 12, 2021



Lori Ann Feibel, President of Council

Attest: _____
William Harvey, Clerk of Council

Approved: Jan. 12, 2021



Ben Kessler, Mayor

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Third Reading: