

- 1, The City of Hardin has experienced unusual weather this year. One form has become a serious concern for our community. The amount of rainfall this spring, especially in the month of April, brought overloading of our sanitary sewer system ,The major cause of the overload is that there are approximately 500 sump pumps discharging sump liquid into our sanitary sewer system.
2. There has been an ordinance in place for years banning the practice of discharging sump liquid into the sanitary sewer. It has been considered and decided by the City Council and Mayor that the existing ordinance needed to be revised to address the overload problem. The intent is to protect home owners from contaminated waters flowing into their basements. Some of the back up water from the overload is laced with sewage. We want to provide and maintain a healthier environment for those homes.
3. Other cities are dealing with the same problem of stopping sump liquids from being pumped into sanitary sewers and have enacted strict ordinances to solve their overload problems. The weather patterns through many areas of our country have produced above normal rainfalls bringing the same overloads that we have experienced. One might think that increased capacity of sewer lines might be an answer. The current cost of sewer line replacement is between 135.00 and 150.00 dollars per lineal foot. If this idea were to be adopted, it would not guarantee there would be no overloads during heavy rains.
4. The change in ordinance would require installation of a system that will allow sump discharge to *be* directed to the sanitary sewer and also to the outside of the building, away from the sewer. The discharge from the pump shall be directed outside no later than first day of April each year and can be connected back to the sanitary sewer no sooner than the first day of October of the same year. The property owners have until April 1, 2012 to complete the installation. The installation must be inspected by the Superintendent of Public Works Office of the City of Hardin. The reason for the split year is the owners would not have to deal with freeze proof discharge lines, and historically, the heaviest rainfall in our city is experienced between April and October.
5. In addition, the ordinance requires that if an approved system is not completed by April 1, 2012, a fee of \$5.00 will be added to the owners sewer bill for six consecutive months, beginning in April of each year or until an approved discharge system is in place.
6. The new ordinance requires that any any transfer, sale of property or new construction that includes a sump pump system must have a certificate from the Superintendent of Public Works Office verifying the buildings are in compliance before final closing.
7. The ordinance is a sincere effort by the City of Hardin to protect homes and businesses from unwanted back water and improve the over all conditions of health and environment. We appeal to the citizens of Hardin and hope they will voluntarily make the necessary changes for the good of our City and for the sake of friends and neighbors who are affected by the unwanted flood waters.

Mayor
