



## *City Council Memorandum*

**To:** Mayor Fasbender & City Councilmembers  
**From:** Ryan Stempski, Public Works Director/City Engineer  
**Date:** March 16, 2022  
**Item:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: City Code Amendment – Chapter 51.05 G – Water Conservation

### **Council Action Requested:**

Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the attached amendment to Hastings City Code Chapter 51.05 G pertaining to water conservation. Upon action by the City Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and final action would be scheduled for the April 4<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. Approval requires a simple majority of the City Council.

### **Background:**

In response to drought conditions in 2021, the City Council declared temporary limitations on exterior water usage on July 21, 2021. One of those limitations included time of day restrictions on lawn sprinkling systems. Best practices and guidance for lawn watering is to avoid watering in the heat of the day. This is when evaporation tends to steal a lot of water and lawn sprinkling becomes inefficient. Therefore, it is recommended to enact time of day restrictions in perpetuity to manage the water supply system.

### **Ordinance Provisions:**

To ensure adequate water supply during hot summer months, the City of Hastings has an odd-even day lawn sprinkling policy from May 15 to September 1 of each year and is recommending an Ordinance amendment to also prohibit watering between the hours of 11 am to 5 pm during this ban each year. The exemption from the odd/even sprinkling ban for newly planted sod, grass or landscaping has been extended from 1 week to 2 weeks.

### **Financial Impact:**

N/A

### **Council Committee Discussion:**

N/A

### **Attachments:**

- Draft Ordinance Amendment

## CITY OF HASTINGS, MINNESOTA

## ORDINANCE NO. 2021-\_\_\_

## An Ordinance of the City of Hastings Amending City Code Chapter 51.05 G: Water Conservation

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HASTINGS:

SECTION 1. HASTINGS CITY CODE CHAPTER 51.05 G IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS (new language is underlined, ~~strikethrough~~ language is deleted):

G. *Water Conservation.*

1. Lawn sprinkling. It is unlawful for the owner or occupant of any property to sprinkle a lawn, wash a motor vehicle or to accomplish any non-essential use not involving private or public sanitation or health when the same is prohibited in accordance herewith.
2. Water emergency. After 24-hours' notice following broadcast by local radio stations, or immediately after hand-delivered special notice that a water emergency exists, it is unlawful for the owner or occupant of any property to use water for sprinkling a lawn, washing a motor vehicle, or any other non-essential use not involving private or public sanitation or health. The water emergency shall continue until further notice by local radio station or newspaper.

3. Ban.

a. Dates. From May 15 to September 1 of each year, an odd/even lawn sprinkling ban shall be in effect for all lawn sprinkling systems supplied by water from the City of Hastings water utility. Properties with even numbered addresses may sprinkle lawns only on days with even numbered dates. Properties with odd numbered addresses may sprinkle only on days with odd numbered dates. The utility billing address will establish the permitted odd or even day for sprinkling for homeowners' associations with both odd and even residences.

b. Hours. During the odd/even days when properties are authorized to use lawn sprinkling systems under 51.05.G.3.a. above, it shall be prohibited to water between the hours of 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

3.4.Exemption. A 12-week exemption from the odd/even sprinkling ban may be granted for newly planted sod, grass or landscaping upon registering for the exemption and recommendation of the Hastings Utility Department. Other exemptions may be granted upon evaluation and recommendation of the Hastings Utility Superintendent. ~~The utility billing address will establish the permitted odd or even day for sprinkling for homeowners associations with both odd and even residences.~~

**SECTION 2. SUMMARY PUBLICATION.** Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 412.191, in the case of a lengthy ordinance, a summary may be published. While a copy of the entire ordinance is available without cost at the office of the City Clerk, the following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance.

The ordinance amendment prohibits the hours of lawn sprinkling during the odd/even ban so that no lawn sprinkling can be done between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. It also expands the exemption for watering new sod or landscaping from one week to two weeks.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon seven (7) days after its passage and publication.

Adopted by the Hastings City Council on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by the following vote:

- Ayes:
- Nays:
- Absent:

**CITY OF HASTINGS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Fasbender, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Murtaugh  
City Clerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Ordinance presented to and adopted by the City of Hastings, County of Dakota, Minnesota, on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, as disclosed by the records of the City of Hastings on file and of record in the office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Murtaugh  
City Clerk