

**CHAPTER 8**  
**PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS**

**Section 8.1 Power to Make Improvements and Levy Assessments.** The city may make any type of local improvement not forbidden by law and levy special assessments to pay all or part of the cost of such local improvements. The total of the assessments for any local improvement may not exceed the cost of the local improvement, plus all costs and expenses connected therewith, including interest. No assessment shall exceed the benefit to the property assessed as measured by the increase in the market value of the property assessed as a result of the local improvement.

**Section 8.2 Application of Charter.** All local improvement projects shall be carried out exclusively under the provisions of this charter. The term "local improvement" as used in this Section shall mean a public improvement financed partly or wholly from special assessments.

**Section 8.3 Assessments for Services.** The council may provide by ordinance that the cost of the city services to streets, sidewalks, or other public or private property may be assessed against property benefited and may be collected in the same manner as special assessments.

**Section 8.4 Local Improvement Procedure.** When the city undertakes any local improvement to which the state local improvement code Minn. Stat. Chapter 429 applies, it shall comply with the provisions of that law, except as modified below. The council may by ordinance prescribe the procedure to be followed in making any other local improvement and levying assessments therefore.

**8.4.1 Sixty Day Waiting Period.** A period of sixty (60) days shall elapse after the conclusion of the public hearing required by law to precede the ordering of the construction of a local improvement project (the "Public Hearing") before the actual ordering of the local improvement by the council and the council entering into a contract for the local improvement construction.

**8.4.2 Percentage of Owners Required.** When the local improvement has been petitioned for by the owners of not less than 50 percent in frontage of the real property abutting on streets named in the petition as the location of the local improvement the resolution ordering the local improvement by the council may be approved by vote of a majority of all members of the council. When there has been no such petition, the resolution may be adopted only by vote of four-fifths of all members of the council.

**8.4.3 Petition Against the Local Improvement.** A proposed local improvement may be initiated by petition of the owners of real property abutting on the streets named in the petition. If, within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the public hearing, a petition against such local improvement is filed with the city administrator which petition is signed by a percentage of the owners of real property abutting on the streets named in the initiating petition as the location of the improvement which percentage is greater than the percentage of owners of real property who signed the initiating petition, the council shall not make such local improvement at the expense of the abutting property owners. For purposes of the foregoing sentence, "owners of real property" shall not include owners of properties zoned for commercial or industrial uses or owners of properties zoned

residential greater than 10 acres in size based on zoning classifications in effect at the date of such petition, or owners of non-homestead real property greater than one acre in size.

**8.4.4 Counter Petition in Favor of the Improvement.** If within thirty (30) days of the filing with the city administrator of a petition against the local improvement as described in Section 8.4.3 above, there is filed with the city administrator a petition in favor of the local improvement, signed by owners of real property abutting on the streets named in the initiating petition as the location of the improvement, in a percentage greater than the percent of owners of real property who signed the petition against the local improvement, then in such event the council may disregard the petition against the local improvement and proceed with the local improvement.

**8.4.5 Petition Against Council Initiated Improvement.** If the local improvement was initiated by council resolution without an initiating petition and, within sixty (60) days of the conclusion of the public hearing, a petition is filed with the city administrator against such local improvement and which petition is signed by 60 percent or more of the owners of real property proposed to be assessed for and benefited by the local improvement, the council shall not make such local improvement at the expense of the benefited property owners. For purposes of the foregoing sentence, "owners of real property" shall not include owners of properties zoned for commercial or industrial uses or owners of properties zoned residential greater than 10 acres in size based on zoning classifications in effect at the date of such petition, or owners of non-homestead real property greater than one acre in size.

**8.4.6 Withdrawal of Name from Petition.** Any person whose name appears on a petition to the council in favor of a local improvement, or on a petition to the council filed against a local improvement, may withdraw his/her name by a statement in writing filed with the city administrator before such petition is presented to the council or in person at a city council meeting before the city council accepts said petition.

**8.4.7 Filing of Petition with City Council.** All completed petitions filed with the city administrator as described herein shall be presented to the council by the city administrator at the council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

**8.4.8 One Year Before Any Further Action.** When a proposed local improvement is disallowed pursuant to the petition process described in the foregoing Sections, the council shall not vote on the same improvement within a period of one year after the public hearing on said improvement.

**Section 8.5 Computation of Time.** Where the performance or doing of any act or matter is required by this charter, and the period of time is prescribed and fixed by this charter, the time shall be computed so as to exclude the first and include the last day of the prescribed or fixed period of time. When the last day of the period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, that day shall be omitted from the computation.

**Section 8.6 Sewer and Water Projects.** This Section applies to any Local Improvement Project completed after January 1, 1996, which includes extending Urban Services (Sewer and/or Water) to an existing home or neighborhood.

**8.6.1 Connection Policy.** The City may not compel any property owner with a functional private sewer and water system to connect to City Sewer and/or Water.

**8.6.2 Assessment Policy.** The City may not levy an assessment for any component of any project which includes Sewer and/or Water improvements against a property whose owner elects to remain on a functional private Sewer and/or Water system.

**8.6.3 Request for Urban Services.** Property owners who remain on private Sewer and Water systems after Urban Services become available may request connection to Urban Services at any time. Upon connection to Urban Services an assessment may be levied provided it is consistent with the original assessment.

- Section 8.1 through 8.5 amended by Ordinance #92-12 - effective January 25, 1993
- Section 8.6 added by Special Election, May 20, 1996 – effective June 20, 1996
- Section 8.4.2, 8.4.3 and 8.4.4 amended by Ordinance #06-22 – effective October 16, 2006
- Section 8.4, 8.4.2 (added) 8.4.2 made 8.4.3 – and so on, amended by Ordinance #12-08 - effective October 1, 2012
- Section 8.4.5 amended by Ordinance #14-07 – effective November 2014