

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROSEMOUNT CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PLAN TO MAKE STARTUPS MORE AFFORDABLE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The Rosemount City Council has approved a step that will make it more affordable for small businesses to start or grow in the community if they need to pay sewer connection charges.

The Council voted on June 16 to apply to join a program of the Metropolitan Council that in some cases allows startup fees to be deferred.

The fee in question is the Sewer Availability Charge (SAC). The charge is required by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for new development. The fee is structured so that businesses using a lot of water, such as restaurants, owe a higher fee – sometimes tens of thousands of dollars that must be paid before a business can open its doors.

“The SAC fee is needed to provide sewer services, but it can discourage entrepreneurs from starting new businesses,” Rosemount Community Development Director Kim Lindquist said. “The deferral plan should make it easier to fund new and growing ventures in Rosemount.”

The City Council approved applying to take part in the Met Council deferral program. The City will draw up qualifications for businesses to apply for a deferral, typically to stretch out its SAC payments over five years. If the payments are not made on time, the cost will be assessed against the property owner.

Rosemount businesses interested in taking part in the program should contact Rosemount Community Development at 651-322-2051.

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