



5213 PACIFIC HIGHWAY EAST, FIFE, WASHINGTON 98424

File
Mayor
W. CARL STEGMAN

(206) 922-CITY
Director of Administration
SHIRLEE A. KINNEY

Council
JOE ROZENSKI
MARIAN WETSCH
JACK STERINO
GEORGE CRIM
DEL LINSTAD

April 29, 1993

Dear Fife Business or Mobile Wash Operator:

Re: **AMENDED REGULATIONS OF MOBILE WASH FACILITIES** in the City of Fife; Ordinance No. 1146

I am pleased to advise you that the City of Fife has amended our regulations regarding mobile wash facilities in the City of Fife. The amendment occurred as a result of the Community Development Department working with three mobile wash operators who showed us a way in which the city objective of protecting our storm water collection system could be obtained while also allowing vehicles to be washed, particularly trucks, in the City of Fife. A copy of the ordinance is attached for your information. Briefly, it requires the following:

1. That an annual sewer discharge permit be obtained from the City of Fife for each location that the mobile wash facility will operate. The annual application fee is \$10 per year for each location.
2. That a business license be obtained if the wash operator is not an employee of the business that is having its vehicles washed.
3. There shall be a defined, marked area for actual washing that is impervious to water. Area must be approved by the Community Development Director.
4. A method approved by the Community Development Director to collect the wash water. Drain plugs in catch basins are prohibited.
5. Provide a method of treatment of waste water prior to discharge into the sanitary sewer. Discharge to comply with the requirements of the public sewer authority that treats the sewage. Testing of discharge shall be undertaken a minimum of twice a year at the operators expense.
6. Location of the discharge into the sewer shall be approved by the Community Development Director.
7. Washing of the vehicles to occur only during the hours and days specified on the sewer discharge permit.
8. Washing to be cosmetic (outside) only, and no engines or

chassis shall be washed.

9. A sediment trap and/or oil-water separator may be required to be used by the Community Development Director.

10. Washing facility shall be available for inspection by the City of Fife and the public sewer authority that treats the sewage generated from the facility.

11. Failure to meet the requirements of the sewage discharge permit or Ordinance No 1146 shall be grounds for revoking the permit.

The City of Fife Community Development Department is prepared to accept applications now for sewer discharge permits at this time. Following review, we expect to be in a position to issue permits around May 8th, when the amending ordinance becomes effective. Applications can be made at Fife City Hall, 5213 Pacific Highway East, Fife, Washington.

There are several questions that need to be addressed as a result of the amending ordinance. They are:

Are there any exemptions to the ordinance? Yes, the ordinance exempts the following:

a. Dealerships of new and used automobiles and trucks may wash the vehicles in the parking stalls of their business provided only water is used. No soaps, detergents or cleaners shall be used.

b. Car rental agencies may wash vehicles in the parking stalls of their business provided only water is used. No soaps, detergents or cleaners shall be used.

For both of the exemptions above, if an outside contractor (not your employees) wash the vehicles with water only, the contractor is required to obtain a City of Fife Business license.

Can I use just water, when I am not one of the exemptions listed above? The answer is NO! The only exemptions allowed to wash with only water are the two listed above.

Can I use soaps, detergents and cleaners that are "biodegradable", without complying with the ordinance? The answer is NO! Soaps, detergents and cleaners are all biodegradable to a certain extent, but the word "biodegradable" has no legal definition in this state. As a result, manufacturers can make claims which in some cases may be misleading. Use of these materials requires compliance with our ordinance.

If I have an approved mobile wash facility (pad, cover, oil/water separator & connection to the sanitary sewer) can I use a mobile wash operator to do the actual washing and not my own employees?

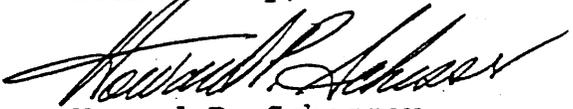
Yes, provided that the mobile wash operator has a valid City of Fife Business license, which are issued yearly. If you need to determine if your facility qualifies or your operator has a valid license, please contact this office at 922-9625.

What are my options? The options available are the following:

1. Obtain the annual sewer discharge permit from the City of Fife that meets the standards of Ordinance No. 1146 (attached.)
2. Have a mobile wash operator obtain an annual sewer discharge permit from the City of Fife that meets the standards of Ordinance No. 1146 (attached.)
3. Wash vehicles at a commercial washing business in which washing occurs in an enclosure and drains to the sanitary sewer.
4. Wash vehicles inside the owner's vehicle or equipment building which is plumbed to drain to the sanitary sewer system through an approved oil/water separator.
5. In a building which has been constructed specifically for washing of vehicles and equipment which is plumbed to drain to the sanitary sewer through an approved oil/water separator. This facility may use mobile washing equipment or have fixed washing equipment. In this system, only the original permit to build the structure and associated plumbing is required.
6. Construct a recycled water system that is covered with no discharge to either the storm drain or sanitary sewer systems. In this system, only the original permit to build the structure and associated plumbing is required.

The Community Development Department is committed to work with Fife businesses and the mobile wash operators to achieve all our objectives. You want clean vehicles, and the City wants the washing and waste recovery to be done in an ecological manner. If you need further information please contact our office at 922-9624 or 922-9625. Carl Durham, Janet Kessell, Helen Ware, Robert Scott, or myself are available to assist you.

Yours truly,



Howard P. Schesser
Community Development Director

cc: Mayor
Kinney/file
Durham, Myers
Backus Scott
Kessell Ware
file

ORIGINAL

CITY OF FIFE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 1146

AN ORDINANCE OF THE FIFE CITY COUNCIL, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF MOBILE WASH FACILITIES, AMENDING FIFE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 13.10.010, 13.10.020, 13.10.030, 13.10.040, AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS 13.10.050 AND 13.10.060.

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Ecology prohibits the discharge of pollutants into storm water and requires that known or suspected contaminants in discharge water be discharged to the sanitary sewer after appropriate pretreatment in accordance with requirements of the local sewer authority; and

WHEREAS, the washing of vehicles by mobile wash facility operators has occurred in the City of Fife resulting in the discharge of the untreated waste water into the storm system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1136, as codified in Fife Municipal Code Chapter 13.10, in order to regulate the discharge of untreated waste water from mobile wash facilities; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment and codification of Ordinance 1136 mobile wash facility operators have requested that the City Council consider some alternative minimum standards; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Director has researched the alternative minimum standards for mobile wash facilities and is recommending that Ordinance No. 1136 and Fife Municipal Code Chapter 13.10 be amended to accommodate these new standards; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the public health, safety and welfare of the public would be served by adopting these new standards; now therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF FIFE DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Fife Municipal Code Section 13.10.010 is amended to read as follows:

13.10.010 -- Definitions.

A. "Mobile Wash Facility" shall mean any wash facility where the method of washing is mobile, is not contained in a permanent structure, and does not contain the waste water for discharge through an approved sanitary system after approved treatment.

B. "Sewer Discharge Permit" shall mean a permit issued by the appropriate public sanitary sewer utility which authorizes the permit holder to discharge waste water into the sanitary sewer, subject to the permit conditions.

Section 2. Fife Municipal Code Section 13.10.020 is amended to read as follows:

13.10.020 -- Permit Required.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a mobile wash facility in the City without first having obtained from the City a business license and a sewer discharge permit for each wash location, or to operate said mobile wash facility in violation of the standards set forth in the sewer discharge permit or in this Code.

B. A permit shall be valid for the calendar year in which it is obtained. The initial permit application fee, and the permit renewal application fee shall each be \$10.

Section 3. Fife Municipal Code Section 13.10.030 is amended to read as follows:

13.10.030 -- Minimum Standards. All mobile wash facilities shall meet the following standards:

A. Have a defined, marked area for actual washing that is impervious to water. The marked area and surface shall be approved by the Community Development Director.

B. Have a method to collect the wash water. If an existing catch basin is proposed the method to be used shall seal the catch basin to prevent waste water entering the storm system. Drain plugs are not permitted to be used. The method of collection shall be approved by the Community Development Director.

C. If a catch basin is dedicated to a reclaim system only, the method of cover when it is not in use shall be approved by the Community Development Director.

D. Provide a method of treatment (if required) of the waste prior to discharge into the sanitary sewer. The discharge shall comply with the requirements of the public sewer authority that

treats the sewer. Testing of the discharge shall be undertaken twice a year at the operators expense to see that it is meeting these requirements, unless the Community Development Director requires more frequent testing. The location of the discharge into the sanitary sewer shall be approved by the Community Development Director.

E. Operate only during the hours and days specified on the sewer discharge permit.

F. Washing will be cosmetic (outside) only, and no engines, or chassis shall be washed.

G. A sediment trap and/or oil/water separator may be required to be used by the Community Development Director.

Section 4. Fife Municipal Code Section 13.10.040 is amended to read as follows:

13.10.040 Inspection. The mobile wash operation shall be available for inspection by the City of Fife and the public sewer authority that treats the sewage generated from the facility. The Community Development Director may require a log be kept of maintenance of the facility, catch basin, oil/water separator or trap.

Section 5. A new Fife Municipal Code section 13.10.050 is hereby added and it shall read as follows:

13.10.050. Revocation. Failure to meet the requirements of the sewage discharge permit or this Code shall be grounds for revoking the permit.

Section 6. A new Fife Municipal Code section 13.10.060 is hereby added and it shall read as follows:

13.10.060 Exemptions. The following uses are exempt from the requirements of this Chapter:

a. Dealerships of new and used automobiles or trucks, or car rental agencies may wash the vehicles in the parking stalls of their business provided only water is used. No soaps, detergents or cleaners shall be used. If this washing is contracted out the firm doing the washing shall have a valid City of Fife business license.

Section 7. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not effect any other provision which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to this lend the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be

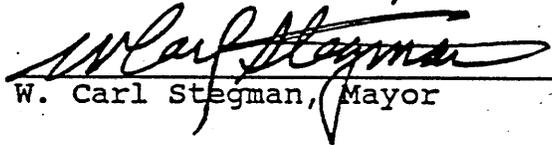
severable.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) days after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law. A summary of this Ordinance may be published in lieu of publishing the Ordinance in its entirety.

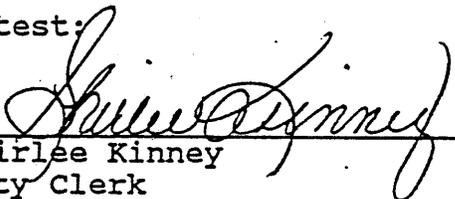
Introduced on the 13th day of April, 1993;

Passed by the City Council on the 27th day of April, 1993;

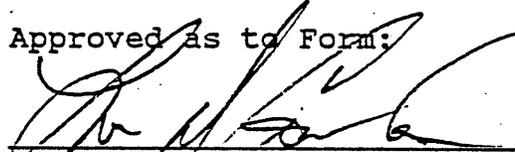
Approved by the Mayor on the 28th day of April, 1993.


W. Carl Stegman, Mayor

Attest:


Shirlee Kinney
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


Loren D. Combs
City Attorney

Published: May 4, 1993 - PCH