



Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Meycauayan
Province of Bulacan

Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 1ST SPECIAL SESSION IN THE YEAR 2023
OF THE 7TH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN,
HELD AT THE SESSION HALL OF THE CITY HALL BUILDING ON JULY 10, 2023.

Present:

JOSEFINA O. VIOLAGO	City Vice Mayor (Presiding Officer)
ANNA KATHRINA M. HERNANDEZ	City Councilor
MARIANO V. ALARILLA II	City Councilor
RONALD S. PALOMARES	City Councilor
JERIMECO S. DULALIA	City Councilor
RAOUL M. ATADERO	City Councilor
MARIO T. BERBOSO	City Councilor
DANILO B. ABACAN, JR.	City Councilor
LARISSA DS. ABRACERO-SAN DIEGO	City Councilor
WILFREDO DS. MACATULAD	City Councilor
ROVIELYN A. CABIGQUEZ	City Councilor
CRISANTO NIÑO D. CAPARAS	President, SK Federation

Absent:

OLIVERT Y. DU YA	President, LnB
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CITY ORDINANCE NO. 357 (OF 2023)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SEWAGE AND SEPTAGE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN.

Be it **ORDAINED**, as it is hereby **ORDAINED**, by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Meycauayan, Bulacan, that:

SECTION 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as "THE MODIFIED SEWAGE AND SEPTAGE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the City of Meycauayan to share in the responsibility of managing and improving the quality of water within its territorial jurisdiction. To meet this objective, the City shall implement measures to prevent and control water pollution to promote health and ensure a balanced ecology.

SECTION 3. Scope and Application. The following structures within the City of Meycauayan, Bulacan are covered by this Ordinance:

- a. All residential structures including, but not limited to, apartments, houses and/or lands on which another dwellings are located and used for residential purposes and shall include not only buildings, parts or units thereof used solely as dwelling place, boarding houses, dormitories, rooms and bedspaces offered for rent by their owners, and also those used for home industries, retail stores or other business purposes if the owner thereof and his or her family actually live therein and use it principally for dwelling purposes;
- b. Commercial establishments, including, but not limited to, restaurants, convenience store, hard wares, malls, groceries, markets, carwash, condominiums,

- motels, hotels, hostels, resort, recreational establishment, auto-repair shops (talyer), poultries and livestock rearing establishments, etc.;
- c. Industrial establishments, including, but not limited to, factories, manufacturing plants, etc.;
 - d. Government structures including, but not limited to, barangay halls, government offices, etc.;
 - e. Institutional structures, including, but not limited to, schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, churches, etc.; and
 - f. Such other structures as may be required by law.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms and Acronyms. As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Cease and Desist Order (CDO)** - A written order sent by the proper authority to an individual or business entity commanding such party to stop an activity purportedly in violation of a law or ordinance ("cease") and not to take it up again later ("desist"). The order may also warn that if the recipient does not stop the specified conduct or take certain actions within the deadline set therein, such party may be used.
- b. **Combined Drainage System** - refers to the conveyance of wastewater from the drainage through the interceptor lines going to the Sewage Treatment Plants.
- c. **DENR** - refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- d. **Desludger** - refers to a person or organization duly licensed to undertake desludging of septage and who has met the qualifications to under the service.
- e. **Desludging** - refers to the process of cleaning or removing the accumulated domestic septage from septic tanks.
- f. **DILG** - the Department of Interior and Local Government.
- g. **DOH** - the Department of Health.
- h. **Drainage** - artificial pipes or conduits provided by the LGU for carrying flood water (no sewage nor wastewater shall pass through drainage systems).
- i. **Effluent** - a general term denoting any wastewater, partially or completely treated or its natural state, flowing out of a drainage canal, septic tank, building, manufacturing plant, industrial plant, treatment plant, etc.
- j. **Food Establishment** - refers to any structure used by persons engaged in food business.
- k. **EMB** - refers to the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR.
- l. **Human excreta** - refers to the human waste composed of urine and feces.
- m. **Hygienic Septic Tank** - refers to the water-tight septic tank with no opening/s at the bottom slab so as not to allow the leaching of liquid or solid wastes to surrounding soil or ground water.
- n. **LWUA** - refers to the Local Water Utilities Administration.

- o. **MWSS** - refers to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.
- p. **Pre-Treatment Facility** - refers to any apparatus or equipment use to modify the characteristics of effluent prior to wastewater disposal system, includes grease traps, oil separators, dilution pits and similar devices.
- q. **Septage** - refers to a combination of scums, sludges and liquid wastes from household septic tank, thickened and partially treated sewage removed from septic tanks.
- r. **Septage Management** - also known as "desludging." It involves the deposit of household's sewage to a properly designated septic tank and collected by a desludging truck going to a Septage Treatment Plant (STP).
- s. **Septage Treatment Plant** - refers to a series of structures purely for the process of treating septage in order to comply with the DENR effluent standards.
- t. **Septic Tank** - refers to a water-tight receptacle that receives the discharges of a sanitary plumbing system, or parts thereof, and is designed and constructed to accomplish the sedimentation and digestion of the organic matter in the sewage within the period of detention or retention to allow the liquid to discharge to a leaching field, sewer lines, a combined sewerage network or directly to a secondary wastewater treatment facility, in accordance with the standards set forth by the Revised National Plumbing Code of the Philippines.
- u. **Sewage** - refers to any wastewater containing human, animal or vegetable waste matter in suspension or solution, including human excreta and urine and may possibly contain liquids consisting of chemicals in solution.
- v. **Sewer or Sewer Lines** - refers to artificial pipes or conduits provided by the water utilities for carrying sewage and wastewater.
- w. **Sewerage Disposal System** - refers to the proper disposal of effluent using either a Sewerage System, Combined Drainage System or Septage Management, whichever is required or accepted by existing environmental laws and policies.
- x. **Sewerage System** - involves the collection of sewerage form households which will be conveyed through the sewer pipelines going to a Sewage Treatment Plant or STP.
- y. **Sludge** - refers to a solid particle of domestic sewage which settles at the bottom of the sedimentation tank, and is digested by anaerobic bacteria purely from domestic sources.
- z. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** - refers to a series of structure that processes the treatment of sewage, mostly from domestic origin, but may include pre-treated liquid wastes from industries and similar establishment and may also accept the treatment of septage, provided there are facilities for accepting and pre-treating it; and
- aa. **Water Utilities** - include water concessionaires, local water utilities, and other accredited water and wastewater services providers.

SECTION 5. Principles of Sewerage and Septage Management. The City of Meycauayan shall abide by the following sewerage and septage management principles:

- a. Untreated excreta from residential areas without septic tanks and untreated wastewater from commercial, industrial, institutional, and public establishments shall not be allowed to be discharged to open drainage canals or piped drainage systems;
- b. All buildings and structures, whether residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, shall be required to have proper sewage treatment or septage management system which shall provide, among others, that:
 - i. all residential structures shall have hygienic septic tanks;
 - ii. all commercial and industrial establishment and hospitals shall have hygienic septic tanks or wastewater treatment facility based on the determination of the DENR and/or DOH;
 - iii. all governmental and institutional structures, except hospitals, shall have hygienic septic tanks or wastewater treatment facilities based on the number of individuals regularly occupying the structures. If there are 200 occupants or less, these structures should have hygienic septic tank; otherwise, they shall be required to have wastewater treatment facilities; and
 - iv. Commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures that are required to have wastewater treatment facilities shall have operational wastewater treatment facilities either on-site or by service off-site.
- c. No wastewater shall be discharged to waterways without any proper treatment;
- d. For areas with sewers or areas with sewer pipelines, no wastewater other than those from residential structures shall be allowed to discharge on the sewers or sewer pipelines, unless such wastewater is serviced by a pre-treatment facility to at least of domestic wastewater quality;
- e. All food establishments (e.g., restaurants, eatery, food chains, etc.) discharging organic and inorganic wastes shall be required to have oil and grease traps installed in their respective kitchen areas; and
- f. All septic tanks must be accessible at all times. Further, no structure shall be allowed to be built on top of any tank.

SECTION 6. Proper Sewage Disposal System Requirements. All residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and governmental establishments in the City, both old and new, are required to have proper sewage disposal systems based on the principles set forth in Section 5 hereof.

- a. For existing structures:
 - i. Residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and governmental structures with inaccessible and /or non-compliant septic tank shall opt for any of the following:
 - (a) Remodeling or restructuring to make the septic tank accessible and compliant with the national standards within one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Ordinance; or
 - (b) Connection to existing sewer lines of water utilities, as applicable; or
 - (c) Construction of communal or shared septic tank;
 - ii. Commercial, industrial, institutional, and governmental establishment that are required to have wastewater treatment facilities should comply with such requirement within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Ordinance; and

iii. No business owner shall be issued a renewed business permit unless he/she has obtained the necessary clearances and permits such as discharge permits and environmental sanitation clearances as may be prescribed by existing laws or as may be required by the DENR and/or DOH and its instrumentalities.

b. New structures:

i. No building permit shall be issued for residential, commercial, industrial, industrial, institutional, and governmental structures unless the design of the hygienic septic tank or wastewater treatment facility in the building plan conforms with existing environmental laws and policies; and

ii. No business owner shall be issued new business permit unless he/she has obtained the necessary clearances and permits such as discharge permits and environmental sanitation clearances as may be prescribed by existing laws or as may be required by the DENR and/ or DOH and its instrumentalities.

SECTION 7. Design Consideration and Computation of Septic Tank. All septic tanks shall be designed to exclude storm water or flow from downspout and such other requirements and specification as provided by national standards. The City Engineer, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1096, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines, and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR), is mandated to ensure that appropriate standard designs of septic tanks shall be enforced in the plan approvals and inspection procedures.

In addition, pursuant to the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2019-0047, the design consideration and computation of septic tank is subject to the following requirements:

- a. Minimum daily inflow or hydraulic load of 50 gallons per person per day (189.20 lcpd);
- b. Daily inflow based on not less than ten persons. For a cluster of households with less than 100 occupants, a septic tank is still acceptable. For more than 100 person, an advanced sewage treatment system shall be applied;
- c. Minimum effective liquid depth of the tank shall be 1.20 meters and additional freeboard of not less than 0.30 meter;
- d. Minimum detention time of 24 hours;
- e. A minimum of two chambers so that the effective capacity of the first chamber is twice that of the second chamber;
- f. Must be rectangular in shape, structurally sound and watertight;
- g. Inlet and outlet connections shall be sanitary tees or baffles constructed of pre-cast concrete or PVC;
- h. Connections for the inlet, outlet and inspection openings are integrally cast for concrete constructed septic tanks. For plastic type materials, the connections shall be mechanically and/or chemically sealed or bonded in order to make it watertight and have strength equal to that of the parent material;
- i. Desludging frequency shall be once in every three to five years; and
- j. Septic tank size and volume determination shall be based on the scientific formula as shown in Annex A of DOH Administrative Order No. 2019-0047.

Other requirements set by existing laws, rules, and regulations are deemed included in this enumeration.

SECTION 8. Mandatory Periodic Desludging of Septic Tanks. All owners and users of septic tanks shall be required to desludge once in every three to five years, or when the sludge volume is around one half (1/2) or two thirds (2/3) or three fourths (3/4) of the total volume of the septic tank, whichever comes earlier.

The inspection and opening of septic tank for desludging purposes shall only be done by sanitary inspectors or barangay official/s duly authorized by the City Engineer and/or representative of the water utility, with the express consent of the owner or the user. The actual desludging must be done only by the water utility, or a private desludging company duly accredited by the DOH and/or DENR-EMB.

Inaccessible septic tank shall be repaired, upgraded, and replaced by a new one as may be directed by the City Engineer to ensure its accessibility and for purposes of desludging at the sole expense of its owner or user.

Violation of this provision shall subject the owner and/or user of the septic tank to the penalties as stipulated in Section 20 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. Right of Entrance and Inspection - No person, after being duly notified, shall interfere with, or obstruct the entrance to any premises, establishment dwelling unit or vessel, of the proper City officials or their duly authorized representative in the discharge of their official functions under this Ordinance.

SECTION 10. Regulation on Septage Collection and Management Providers. Only the DENR, DOH-accredited private entities and those expressly allowed by the City who possess complete permits shall be allowed to provide septage collection and transport services. Collected septage shall only be disposed of and treated in a DENR and/or DOH-accredited disposal or treatment facilities with pertinent permits.

Liquid and/or solid materials removed from septic tanks shall be transported only by DOH/DENR-accredited or those City accredited septage management, treatment, hauler, or desludging service providers to approved septage treatment facilities pursuant to the regulations prescribed by the DOH. Unless otherwise provided by law, no septage management and/or treatment provider shall be allowed to collect, transport and upload or dispose of their septage in other places, including bodies of water, agricultural fields, and the drainage system within the City.

SECTION 11. Permit Requirements. All entities applying for Business and Building Permits who will engage or are already engaged in desludging activities are required to secure Sanitary Permits from the City Health Department, supported by Permit Transport from the DENR, Environmental Sanitation, Clearances from DOH, and other pertinent permits as may be deemed necessary and as part of the requirements for the issuance of building permits and annual business licenses from the City.

SECTION 12. Institutional Arrangements. The City Environment and Natural Resources Office (City ENRO) or any office as authorized by the City Mayor shall have the following responsibilities in implementing this Ordinance:

- a. **Inspection** - Request the City Engineer to designate field inspectors that will check on the general design, construction, and maintenance requirements of septic tanks and/or wastewater treatment facilities in residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures;
- b. **Maintenance and Database** - Coordinate with the City Urban Planning and Development Office in the formation and maintenance of a robust database of the list of all homeowners with hygienic septic tanks and with the City Business Permit and Licensing Office for the database of all business establishments with adequate wastewater treatment facilities;
- c. **Transportation of Septage** - Coordinate with the CENRO and City Health Office for the implementation of an accreditation system, in consonance with the rules and regulations set forth by DENR/DOH for the handling, transportation, treatment and disposal of septage for private desludging service providers who intend to operate in the City;

d. **Issuance of Sanitary Permits** - Coordinate with the City Health Office on the issuance of sanitary permits for all septage treatment and collection facilities, and development of a protocol for a period inspection of such facilities, including but not limited to equipment, training programs, and safety;

e. **Enforcement on Sewer Connection** - Assist the water utilities and other appropriate authorities in the enforcement of sewer connection and imposition of penalties for non-disconnection or disconnection and illegal sewer tapping; and

f. **Information, Education, Communication (IEC)** - Coordinate with the CICRO and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office for the conduct of massive IEC in collaboration with appropriate public or private agencies on proper wastewater management to increase level of awareness and commitment of the public to proper sewage treatment or septage management.

SECTION 13. Power to Enter into Contracts. To effectively carry out the provisions of this Ordinance, its mandate and as provided for by the Clean Water Act, the Local Government Unit, through its Local Chief Executive may enter into contracts or joint venture agreements or implement and execute its subsisting applicable agreements with the private sector which is accredited by the National or Local Government Unit.

SECTION 14. Septage Fee/Environmental Fee and Other Funding Options. To support and sustain the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the implementation of Sewage and Septage Program in the City of Meycauayan, a **septage fee/environmental fee** for desludging and septage treatment shall be imposed on all residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures or establishments serviced by the chosen accredited service providers which shall be incorporated in their respective water billing statements. The amount shall be subject to the limit that may **not be more than P5.00 per cubic meter** of water consumed by the water utilities customers/subscribers. The said fee shall be exclusively used to sustain efficient and effective septage management in the City subject to periodical adjustments.

The septage fee/environmental fee set herein shall be subject to change depending on the rates that may be subsequently approved and/or set by the LWUA.

The City may appropriate or raise funds to subsidize the necessary expenses for the establishment and/or operation and maintenance of sewerage treatment or septage facility through appropriate local property taxes and enforcement of a service fee system. Further, the City may pursue funding assistance from both local and foreign sources, either public or private, through mutual agreements, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

Section 15. Septage Collection and Treatment Fee for Non-Water Service Customers. For Non-Water Service providers/customers, a one-time fee for the collection and treatment of septage shall be paid directly to the accredited service provider office upon the request of the service. This shall cover the collection and treatment of domestic septage that can be collected in a single trip of the vacuum truck. The septage fee shall be determined by the Service Provider taking into consideration the actual cost, distance, volume, and difficulty as well as the prevailing industry rates.

SECTION 16. Collecting Arm for the Septage Fee/Environmental Fee. The Water Service Provider and/or the Water Utilities within the jurisdiction of the City will serve as the collecting arm for the septage fee in relation to the Septage Management Program whose rates shall be limited only to those allowed and set by the City.

SECTION 17. Mandatory Sewer Line Connections and Sewerage Projects. Buildings or premises producing sewage shall connect to sewer main lines in all areas where they exist.

The City provides assistance in securing the necessary permits, right-of-way acquisition and conducting of IEC activities to the water utilities in laying down sewer lines within the City and in connecting the existing sewage line found in certain structures to the available sewerage system.

Only domestic wastewater sources shall connect to existing sewer lines. Commercial buildings and structures are required to pre-treat all wastewater from their structures to "domestic wastewater quality" in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9275) before the same is discharged. Said connection to existing sewer lines shall be subject to sewerage service charges of fees, if any, in accordance with existing laws, rules, or regulations as identified by the water utilities.

SECTION 18. Prohibited Acts. The following acts are prohibited:

- a. Refusal to desludge as required by this Ordinance;
- b. Refusal of new and existing residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional facilities to connect to available sewer lines;
- c. Littering, throwing or dumping of waste matter, septage and untreated wastewater in public places such as roads, parks, drainages, canals, rivers and other natural artificial waterways and other open areas, or causing or permitting the same;
- d. Desludging and transporting of septage without the necessary permits and accreditation from the authorized permitting agencies; and
- e. Hiring or availing the services of illegal/non-accredited desludger or transporter by any person or establishment, to desludge septic tanks or dispose of their wastewater.

SECTION 19. Monitoring and Evaluation. The City Engineer, in coordination with the City Health Officer, the City Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), the City Business Permit and Licensing Officer (BPLO) or their equivalent, shall be required to evaluate the compliance of the facilities one (1) year after the effectivity of this Ordinance. All these facilities must conform to the standards of the DENR-EMB and DOH.

The same Officers shall come-up with an annual list of violators to be posted in three (3) conspicuous places and in local government website, if any.

The same list shall be submitted to the City Treasurer and the BPLO for the imposition of appropriate penalties, furnishing a copy to the City DILG Officer.

SECTION 20. Penalties. Any owner or user of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional structures who fails to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance shall incur the following fines and penalties for every violation:

- a. For Residential Homeowners:
 - i. **First Offense** - Attendance in a seminar on the City Septage Management Program and issuance of a Notice of Violation (NOV);
 - ii. **Second Offense** - Fine of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P 1,500.00) and Environment-Related Community Service; and
 - iii. **Succeeding Offenses** - Fine of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P 2,500.00) and/or imprisonment of not less than one (1) day nor more than six (6) months, or both subject to the discretion of the court, and Environment-Related Community Service.
- b. For Business Owners:
 - i. **First Offense** - Fine of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P 3,000.00), issuance of NOV, and attendance in a seminar on the City Septage Management Program; and

ii. **Succeeding Offenses** - Fine of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P 5,000.00) and/or imprisonment of not less than one (1) day nor more than six (6) months, or both subject to the discretion of the court, and issuance of Cease-and-Desist Order (CDO) as herein defined.

In the case the violator is a juridical person, the penalty of imprisonment, attendance in seminar and/or rendition of community service as the case may be, shall be imposed on the President, Manager, Executive Officer or person responsible for its operations.

Violators shall be assessed annually to monitor their compliance. Likewise, continued violation shall merit the imposition of increasing penalties for each assessed violation.

The City shall post in its bulletin board and website the names of persons or entities of second time (or more) violators. Failure to comply with the provisions set herein shall result in the revocation, cancellation, or non-renewal of business permits and perpetual ban to conduct business in the City for commercial establishment.

SECTION 21. No-Contest Provision. For the purpose of efficient implementation of this Ordinance, it is hereby provided that any person, natural or juridical, who is apprehended or cited for violation of any of its provisions and who does not wish to contest the same and is willing to pay voluntarily the fine imposed upon him/her and/or to perform the community service to avoid the filing of a formal charge with the proper court, shall be allowed to pay said fine with the City Treasurer's Office and/or perform the aforesaid activities in order to avoid being criminally prosecuted pursuant to this Ordinance.

SECTION 22. Grace Period. Owners or users of existing septic tanks constructed not in accordance with the foregoing standards shall be given a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Ordinance to comply with the requirements and specifications set herein either by constructing a new one, or retro-fitting or repairing the existing ones. The costs of construction, retro-fitting or repair shall be borne by the owners or users thereof. Should the owners or users fail or refuse to construct a new one, or retro-fit, or repair within the period provided in this Section, the City shall undertake the same for the account of the owner or user.

SECTION 23. Funding. The City Government shall allocate necessary funds to support the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 24. Separability Clause. In the event that any part or provision of this Ordinance is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 25. Repealing Clause. All other Ordinances or provisions thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

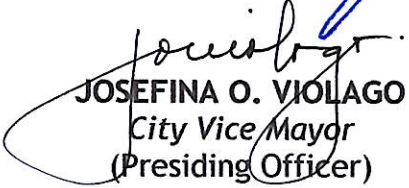
SECTION 26. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect after the posting thereof in the bulletin board at the entrance of the city hall and at other prominent places in the City of Meycauayan for three (3) consecutive weeks and the publication thereof in newspaper of general circulation, where available, within the territorial jurisdiction of the City.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

I hereby CERTIFY that this Ordinance was approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod.


ATTY. BERNARD JOSEPH E. DOMINGO
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

ATTESTED BY:


JOSEFINA O. VIOLAGO
City Vice Mayor
(Presiding Officer)


ANNA KATHRINA M. HERNANDEZ
City Councilor


MARIANO V. ALARILLA II
City Councilor

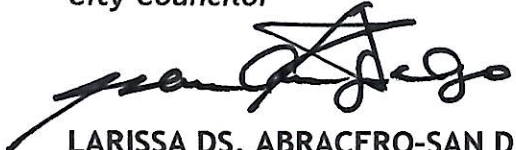

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ROVIELYN A. CABIGQUEZ
City Councilor


OLIVERT Y. DUAYA
President, LnB


CRISANTO NIÑO D. CAPARAS
President, SK Federation

APPROVED by the City Mayor this _____ day of 12 JUL 2023, 2023:


ATTY. HENRY R. VILLARICA
City Mayor