City of Joplin — City Council Agenda Item

REQUESTED COUNCIL MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2015

Item: Council Bill 2015-502

Finance Director: Leslie Haase	**Date:**
City Attorney: Peter Edwards	**Date:**
City Manager: Sam Anselm	**Date:**

INTRODUCTION:

This Council Bill changes language related to sewer billing.

DISCUSSION:

The State of Missouri enacted RsMO. 250.140.1 that generally addresses the collection of delinquent sewer fees for rental property. The statute includes provisions that when a tenant is delinquent for the payment of sewer fees, the City can collect up to 90 days of past due sewer fees from the owner or the tenant. The City also must make a good faith effort to notify both the owner of the property and the tenant of any delinquent sewer fees.

Finance staff has recently been working with various landlord associations on the collection of past due sewer charges for rental property and ensuring compliance with the State Statute. Through this process, staff has implemented a Landlord/Property Owner Program form for owners of rental property to utilize. The City is dependent on owners of rental property to notify us that they are the owner of such property. This form allows staff the ability to send owners duplicate notifications of any delinquent sewer fees.

As a result of this effort, this council bill adds similar language as the state statute to the Joplin sewer billing and collecting procedures code. This language will further assist staff in outlining procedures to follow when collecting on delinquent sewer charges for rental property.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff recommends this Council Bill be approved on first reading.