

manner as shall be provided by ordinance and to purchase, contract to purchase, lay or contract to lay water mains and trunk and lateral sewers in said city and to pay the costs of all such work and assess said cost, or any part thereof, against the abutting property as hereinafter provided in this section. For the purposes of this section, the term "water mains" shall include fire hydrants, meters, valves and connections and all other service equipment. The foregoing action may be initiated by the council on its own motion without the filing of a petition by abutting property owners hereinafter provided for.

(b) Whenever a petition in writing, duly signed, by the owners of at least twenty per cent of the front footage of all the property abutting upon any such proposed public improvement shall be filed with the council praying for the construction of any public improvement herein mentioned, the council shall, after having given the notice prescribed in the following section, hold a public hearing upon the matter of such petition, and shall, as soon thereafter as may be convenient, render its decision thereon granting or denying the said application, as in its judgment the public health, safety or comfort may require; provided, however, that, in case the council shall grant such petition, it shall thereupon proceed in all respects in the manner and in the form hereinafter provided in this section.

(c) Before entering upon the construction of any work or improvement specified herein, the council shall, by ordinance, designate the location, extent and kind of work or improvement proposed to be done or made, the kind of materials to be used, the estimated cost of the improvement and the real property which will be specially benefited thereby and which it is proposed to assess to pay all or any part of the cost thereof and shall fix a time and place when and where the owner or owners of the property to be so assessed therefor can be heard in reference thereto. Notice of such hearing, embodying the substance of said ordinance, shall be served upon the owners of said properties by mailing a copy thereof to their last known post office address of record and by publishing said notice two times in some newspaper of general circulation in said city, the last publication to be not less than three days before said hearing.

(d) If, after the hearing, the council shall be of the opinion that the public health, safety or comfort requires the work or improvement proposed to be done or made, they shall provide by ordinance for the same and may charge the expense thereof or any part of such expense against the property which they shall find to be specially benefited thereby according to the front foot rule of apportionment or some other equitable basis as may be determined by them; and the council shall include as a part of the cost of said work to be assessed against the benefited property the cost of said work embraced in street intersections and exemptions on corner lots or irregular shaped lots, the actual interest charges covering the term of indebtedness on the certificates issued for such public work and a reasonable percentage for advertising, clerical work and other miscellaneous expenses in connection with said work, and the items above stated are hereby declared to be a part of the cost of said public work. The council shall also provide in said ordinance the time and terms upon which payment of said assessments for said work and improvements shall be made by said property owners, the rate of interest, if any, that shall be charged upon deferred payments and shall provide penalties for failure to pay any deferred payment when due. Assessments so levied as aforesaid shall be a lien upon the property against which they are charged superior to all other liens from the date of the approval of such assessments by the council.