

Chapter 25

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT\***

- Art. I. In General, §§ 25-1— 25-10**  
**Art. II. Engineering Division, §§ 25-11—5-14**

**ARTICLE I.  
IN GENERAL**

**Sec. 25-1. Office and department established; appointment and removal.**

The office of commissioner of public works and the department of public works are established. The commissioner shall be an officer of the city and the provisions of law for the appointment and removal of heads of departments shall be applicable to such office. The commissioner of public works shall be deemed to be a water commissioner, a sewer commissioner and a street commissioner for the purposes of construing any law or statute. The commissioner of public works shall also be designated as the Permitting Authority to issue permits for the purpose of creating a trench as that term is defined by GL c. 82A, § 4 and 520 CMR 14.00. He shall receive for his services such salary as shall be fixed by the mayor and city council. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 123; Ord. No. 90, 10-06-75; Ord. No. R-174, 10-05-81; Ord. V-289, 3-20-00; Ord. Z-33, 11-03-08)

**Sec. 25-2. Powers and duties; assistants.**

The commissioner of public works shall have under his immediate control and direction such assistants and employees as may from time to time be duly authorized. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 2- 124; Ord. No. 90, 10-6-75)

**Sec. 25-3. Duties generally.**

The commissioner of public works shall have charge of the public ways and the traffic control devices, signage and street lighting; water, sewer and drain operations; engineering; solid waste and recycling; and maintenance of all city-owned motor vehicles, excepting those motor vehicles in the custody of the fire department. The commissioner shall have the authority to enforce any ordinance in this section or sections 11 and 26 of these ordinances, unless otherwise provided by law. (Rev. Ords. 1973, §§ 2-125, 19-39; Ord. No. 90, 10-6-75; Ord. No. 190, 12-20-76; Ord. No. 220, 6-6-77; Ord. No. 233, 8-15-77; Ord. No. 317, 2-20-79; Ord. No. R-174, 10-5-81; Ord. No. R-267, 10-18-82; Ord. V-289, 3-20-00; Ord. B-55, 03-16-20)

**Sec. 25-4. Report as to betterments.**

Upon the completion of any work under the authority of law or any order of the city council authorizing the assessment of betterments, the commissioner of public works shall forthwith report thereon to the city council, stating in such report the cost of the work and the damages, if any, paid for land and buildings taken, also that such work has been done under the provisions of law authorizing the assessment of betterments. (Rev. Ords. 1973, §§ 2-126, 19-40; Ord. No. 90, 10-6-75; Ord. No. V-289, 3-20-00)

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\***Charter reference**—Administrative departments, Art. 6

**Cross references**—Administration, Ch. 2; planning and development, Ch. 22; streets and sidewalks, Ch. 26; zoning, Ch. 30

**Sec. 25-5. Record of work done.**

Whenever the commissioner of public works shall do or cause any work to be done for an individual for which any sum shall become due to the city, he shall enter in books to be kept for that purpose all work done with the price or just value thereof. (Rev. Ords. 1973, §§ 2-127, 19-41; Ord. No. 90, 10-6-75)

**Sec. 25-6. Erection of barriers on unsafe streets.**

Whenever any public street, sidewalk or bridge is unsafe for travel, the commissioner of public works shall erect suitable barriers to warn travelers upon such parts thereof as are unsafe, and shall cause such places to be sufficiently lighted at night. (Rev. Ords. 1973, §§ 2-128, 19-42; Ord. No. 90, 10-6-75)

**Secs. 25-7—25-10. Reserved.****ARTICLE II.  
ENGINEERING DIVISION****Sec. 25-11. Qualifications; engineer for city departments; outside consultant.**

The city engineer shall be a registered professional civil engineer of established reputation in municipal engineering who shall be appointed by and serve under the direction of the commissioner of public works. The city engineer shall act as engineer to all the city departments requiring such service, except in special cases in which it is necessary to secure the advice or services of another engineer with an established reputation in the particular field in question. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 2-136; Ord. No. 190, 12-20-76; Rev. Ords. 1995, § 7-1; Ord. No. V-289, 3-20-00)

**Sec. 25-12. Duties generally.**

It shall be the duty of the city engineer to draw the specifications for all construction work and make all surveys, measurements, levels, designs, estimates and plans pertaining to the streets, drains, sewers, waterworks, bridges and lands of the city. He shall furnish such specifications and make such surveys, measurements, designs, levels, estimates and plans when required to do so by the mayor, the city council or any committee thereof or any administrative board or officer of the city having the same in charge. He shall furnish the city solicitor at his request with descriptions of lands, and with the details concerning any proposed taking of lands, or the location, widening, alteration or discontinuance of streets. The city engineer shall, when required to do so by the mayor, by the city council or any committee thereof or any administrative board or officer of the city having the same in charge, measure or cause to be measured all work done by contract for the city, and shall certify to the same; and shall perform such other duties as are incident to his office. He shall prepare under the direction and approval of the city solicitor all orders, resolves and other papers relating to drains, sewers, streets or ways. When required to do so by the mayor, the city council or any committee thereof or any administrative board or officer of the city, he shall serve as a consultant and advisor concerning engineering matters affecting private development plans and proposals submitted to the city. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 2-137; Ord. No. 190, 12-20-76; Rev. Ords. 1995, § 7-1; Ord. No. V-289, 3-20-00)

**Sec. 25-13. Record of betterment assessment.**

The city engineer shall keep a record showing all debts and credits of each and every estate, the whole or a portion of which may be taken for sewer purposes, for laying out, widening or extending a street, or which may be assessed under any betterment law. (Rev. Ords. 1973, § 2-138; Rev. Ords. 1995, § 7-1; Ord. No. V-289, 3-20-00)

**Sec. 25-14. Updated Plans**

The city engineer shall keep atlases showing the water, sewer and drain systems of the city and records and plans showing the layout, construction, reconstruction and major repairs of the public ways; and shall promptly amend such atlases, records and plans as necessary to accurately show all additions and changes to such systems. (Ord. No. V-289, 3-20-00)