

expose him to hatred, contempt or ridicule, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Every slander herein mentioned shall be deemed malicious if no justification therefor be shown and shall be justified when the language charged as slanderous, false or defamatory was true and was spoken with good motives and for justifiable ends.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 23, 1915.

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CHAPTER 285—H. F. No. 644.

*An Act authorizing cities having a population of ten thousand or less excepting any such city organized under the provisions of Section 36, Article 4 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, to maintain or improve their streets and public highways by sprinkling, oiling, curbing, or gutters and to provide for the cost thereof and for assessment to, and payment of such costs or part thereof by the abutting property owner.*

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. **Cities of 10,000 or less authorized to sprinkle with oil.**—In any city of this state having a population of ten thousand or less, the City Council shall have power and may cause any street or public highway therein or any part thereof to be improved or maintained by sprinkling, oiling, curbing, or building gutters upon a petition therefor signed by three-fourths of all owners of real estate bounding both sides of such street or highway and by the owners of at least one-half of the frontage of such street or highway or part thereof to be improved; or may order any curb or gutter to be built on one side of a street or highway or part thereof upon like petition if signed by the owners of at least one-half the frontage on such side of said street, highway, or part thereof, to be so improved; and without any petition it may order any curb or gutter previously built to be put in repair when necessary; and it may, upon such petition so providing, cause such sprinkling, or oiling to be done annually at such time or times as shall be required by said petition, the cost of such improvement, sprinkling, or oiling or any part thereof not less than one-half, may be assessed and levied by resolution of the council upon the lots or parcels of ground fronting on the street, public highway, or side thereof so improved, sprinkled, or oiled and most benefited thereby; and if such petition provides for sprinkling or oiling annually the council may make such assessment or levy for such amount as will be required for such purpose during any such year, until a petition for the discontinuance of said sprinkling or oiling, similarly executed, is presented to the council.

**Sec. 2. Additional tax authorized.**—If the tax so levied proves insufficient to pay the cost or proportion thereof assessed to such property the council may levy an additional tax thereon to make good the deficiency.

**Sec. 3. How assessments shall be made.**—The assessments authorized in Section 1 and 2 hereof shall be made by resolution of the council setting forth the purpose thereof, a description of each lot or parcel benefited, the name of its owner if known, and the amount assessed thereon. Two weeks published notice in a newspaper in the municipality shall be given of the contents of such resolution and of the time when the council will attend at its usual place of meeting to hear objections to the assessment or any part thereof; at such time and place the council shall consider all objections made and for that purpose may adjourn from day to day not exceeding three days and by resolution may modify such assessment or any part thereof. On October 10th next following, if any of the assessments be not previously paid to the city treasurer, the city clerk shall certify the same to the county auditor who shall extend all such unpaid amounts against the land assessed and the same shall be enforced, collected, and paid over to the city treasurer as in the case of other city taxes.

**Sec. 4. Application.**—This act shall not in any manner apply to any city having a home rule charter adopted pursuant to Section 36, Article 4 of the Constitution of the state, and it shall not be construed as in any manner superseding, repealing, amending, or qualifying the provisions of any such home rule charter.

**Sec. 5. Not to repeal other acts.**—This act shall not repeal, and shall not be construed as, repealing, amending, or modifying the power of any city to levy taxes, for any of the purposes herein provided, in accordance with any charter, law, or ordinance, but it shall apply equally to all cities as herein provided in addition to any such power.

**Sec. 6. Orders drawing six per cent authorized.**—The city council may authorize orders to be issued on the city treasury, bearing not to exceed 6 per cent interest, to defray the cost of any such improvement until such time as the assessment above provided for shall be paid.

**Sec. 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 23, 1915.