

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Brownfield at 5:00 p.m.

**Present:** Alderman John Blundy, Alderman Mike Brownfield, and Alderman Dave Dingleline

**Also Present:** City Administrator Jim Snider, City Engineer Dennis Carr, Utilities Superintendent Brian Rittenhouse, Public Works Director Kevin Schone, Alderman Lili Stevens

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1. **Non-member Aldermen Wishing to be Heard on Non-Agenda Item:** None.

2. **Citizens Wishing to be Heard on Non-Agenda Item:** None.

3. **Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2021, Meeting:** Motion to approve made by Alderman Dingleline, seconded by Alderman Blundy. Motion approved.

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. WATER QUALITY STUDY UPDATE:**

Washington has 2 Water Treatment Plants. Plant 1 is off of Main Street and feeds the low pressure zone. Plant 2 is on Constitution and feeds the high pressure zone. There are currently three Pressure Reducing Valves (Dallas, Bus 24, and Hillcrest) that are intended to separate the two systems and act as an emergency interconnect between our two systems.

- The raw well water at plant 1 has more ammonia, and thusly was designed to use chloramine as the disinfectant. Chloramine is a combination of chlorine and ammonia.

- The wells at plant 2 had lower levels of ammonia and thusly were designed to use free chlorine, which just means you add chlorine until all ammonia is oxidized into nitrogen gas.

In July of 2019, the IEPA passed new rules governing water quality.

The new rules required

1) a minimum free chlorine residual of 0.5 mg/L or a minimum combined chlorine residual of 1.0 mg/L (around double as was required previously)

2) Community water supplies must monitor chlorine levels at different points in distribution system

3) Community Water Supplies must not mix water sources with free chlorine and combined chlorine residual.

With the new rules also came the need for City's to put together a nitrification action plan if they are using chloramine as a disinfectant. The water quality study was proposed to check the chlorine levels throughout the plant as well as in the system and also to develop a nitrification action plan. One part of a nitrification action plan is to put a procedure in place to perform a free chlorine burn to remove the nitrates and nitrites from the system. This involves increasing the chlorine levels past the breakpoint and disinfecting with the free chlorine. Our Plant 1 does not have the ability to add enough chlorine to perform this currently, so modifications would need to be made to the plant. Upgrade costs are estimated around \$250,000.

During the study, a simulation was run and it was shown that the high-pressure zone was assisting the low-pressure zone during peak use. This was causing the two systems to blend for short periods of time. The way to avoid this in the future would be to adjust the PRV locations to better isolate the zones, or to upgrade Plant 1 to allow for it to feed more chlorine and disinfect using the free chlorine residuals. Switching plant 1 to free chlorine has the same upgrade costs as would be needed for the upgrades needed in the nitrification action plan, has a cheaper complete cost due to not needing to relocate PRV's (Each of IAWC's current proposed interconnects is estimated around \$200,000), and it would also remove the blending that is experienced periodically.

For us to modify the final water quality from chloramine disinfection to free chlorine disinfection, IEPA is requiring us to do a table top corrosion study. This is a study that shows that switching does not cause damage to pipes. CMT has enough contract remaining to perform the tabletop study instead of the nitrification action plan and has asked to adjust the scope of their water quality study contract to perform the desktop corrosion test.

***Comments: Alderman Dingledine asked if the raw water quality was really that different between plants. Initial wells at Plant 2 were dug without a water quality sample and had tannins. New wells at Legion are a lot better. Alderman Dingledine commented on the quality of water in Washington and how its better than surrounding towns. Nearby towns have a strong chlorine smell, but that's because of new IEPA regulations. Alderman Dingledine didn't think that the blended water was causing any issues because water is consumed in the area which is what caused the blending.***

**STAFF UPDATES:**

- Dennis Carr – City Engineer
  - Waiting on IDOT to approve and finalize the 2021 MFT Paperwork. We will then begin working on the 2022 projects.
- Kevin Schone – Public Works Director
  - Brian and I have been working on getting prices for the skid steer, Altorfer has been out to look at our trade. We have also asked for pricing for a backhoe and trade value for our Cat 420.
  - We have also sought prices for a new plow truck. I have contacted Sourcewell for vendor information and am expecting a call from the Mack dealer, possibly Kenworth and Peterbilt as well. I also contacted International Trucks, the State bid holder for pricing. We have had a lot of problems with the Internationals and are looking to try something else but wanted to get bid pricing information from them.
  - We have received the new camera and camera van back from EJ Equipment but are waiting for training from Cues.
  - We have gotten rid of two more cars at the Legion Road facility and it's not looking so much like a used car lot now.
  - Guys did a good job plowing snow even though there were a few mailboxes hit and yards ran up into. It was a tough storm because of temperatures.
  - The water may have more of a chlorine smell now than it did a few years ago, as it used to be measured by a color wheel and we bought a new Hach meter a few years ago that may be more accurate.
- Brian Rittenhouse – Utility Superintendent
  - I have been working on Commodity Bid Documents. Kevin and I will go through them this week to make sure there are no errors. The plan is to advertise by January 19<sup>th</sup> with a bid opening February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - WWTP #1 Demo is complete. Staff met with the contractor onsite to review the completed project. All looks good. I will reach out to Iron Hustler to get a tonnage number of CA6 rock that was produced by crushing the demoed concrete.
  - WTP #1 HVAC Unit has arrived hopefully will be installed sometime this month

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion approved by **Alderman Dingledine seconded by Alderman Blundy**. Meeting adjourned at **5:51 p.m.**