

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

held on Monday, March 14, 2022, in Council Chambers, beginning at 5:15 p.m.,
Mayor Katie Rosenberg presiding.

Roll Call

3/14/2022

Roll Call indicated 10 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Present</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Wadinski, Jim	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NV
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Ryan, Debra	YES

Public Comment: Pre-registered citizens for matters appearing on the agenda

- 1) Bruce Grau, 1115 N 10th St, spoke on behalf the Poor People's Campaign, stating they have a right to clean and safe water provided by the city government. He requested an aggressive comprehensive approach to identify those most at risk.

Suspend the Rules

3/14/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Wadinski to Suspend Rule 12(A) Referral of Resolutions. Motion carried 10-0.

Yes Votes: 10 No Votes: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASS

02-0306

3/14/2022

Motion by Larson, second by Kilian to adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Authorizing the Noncompetitive Procurement Process for the PFAS Removal Pilot Study and Alternate Temporary Drinking Water Supply, establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Eligible Use and Establishing the Related Budget.

Maryanne Groat stated Council approved the budget at the last meeting but there were no numbers, or an actual budget line item provided in the resolution. She stated the Federal government has procurement regulations as they pertain to the spending of Federal dollars. She noted the Federal government acknowledges that there are times when you cannot go through a full competitive process, such as in an emergency or situation necessitating a quick response. She commented in the last resolution they authorized hiring Donohue, which was a good rational decision because they had been the engineer of record for the facility and studied our water when developing the plans for the plant. She stated this resolution is specifying the Council considers this an emergency and are therefore setting aside the competitive process, and it strengthens our documentation of the process we went through. There may be a need to purchase from multiple suppliers to get the quantity of bottled water that is PFAS safe and filters that remove PFAS as soon as possible.

Becky McElhaney wanted assurance they are looking at DHS certifications on the filters, not just certifications from manufacturer. Eric Lindman confirmed they are considering are DHS certified filters through NSF and they have also been tested to show removal of PFOA and PFOS.

Deb Ryan felt this situation was a disaster similar to New Orleans except it is strictly water related and questioned if the city was going through the protocol through the County Emergency Management to ask for a disaster designation, informing the Governor and asking for Federal assistance.

Lindman indicated they have asked Emergency Management at both the County and the State level to help us procure certain items. He also spoke to the mayor about requesting direct funds from the State for reimbursement for the Pilot Study and additional studies we are doing. He pointed out there are no PFAS removal drinking water treatment systems in Wisconsin. He stated Wausau is at the forefront of this and the path we are on will make us the first PFAS drinking water treatment system in Wisconsin. The DNR is recognizing this and want adequate studies done as soon as possible.

Sarah Watson stated there was distribution of bottled water through the Neighbors Place on the east side, but questioned if there will be distribution on the west side as well.

Mayor Katie Rosenberg indicated she had a list of 20 other agencies that the United Way is helping us to contact for water, such as the Hmong American Center, the Women's Community, Catholic Charities, and Health First.

Lou Larsson questioned if there was a list of the type of countertop filters the city is going to purchase available for the public to look at, and secondly, if there was a possibility of getting a temporary filtration system to hook up to the water plant until the plant can filter the PFAS. Lindman indicated they were still pursuing that because of the material shortages working with Emergency Management on it, and that he would put the two filters they were proposing to buy online to the city's website.

Deb Ryan stated the city should find a way to make water distribution available during evening and weekend hours as well as daytime hours. Tom Kilian suggested meeting again in the near future to discuss distribution because he has received concerns from senior citizens regarding difficulty in picking up water and/or getting it into a vehicle. Eric Lindman asked that comments from residents be sent to him immediately rather than waiting for a meeting and if there is anything they can do or change on the distribution side they will try to do it as soon as possible. He stated they will announce when the water has arrived and where it can be picked up through press releases, social media, and on the website.

Yes Votes: 10 No Votes: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASS

Adjourn

3/14/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Wadinski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk