



Minutes of April 6, 2022

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 6:15 p.m. in City Hall on Wednesday, April 6th, 2022. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on April 4, 2022.

Members Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Herbst, Gehin, Force, Via WebEx- Robinson
Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Ben Brooks, Anne Jacobson, Stephen Opatik/ Becher-Hoppe, Susan Wojtkiewicz/ Donohue, Matthew Bednarski/CDM Smith, Mark White/CDM Smith, Evan Thomas/Wood, Hannah Alberturs-Benham/Wood, Dave Woodward/Wood
Dickson/Tetratech, Marsha Meurette/Tetra Tech, Angel Gebeau/AECOM,
Via WebEx: MaryAnne Groat, Pat Peckham, Dung "Zoom" Nguyen/CDM Smith, Al LeBlanc/CDM Smith, Mark Rutkowski/Shannon&Wilson, Kristen Ferberger/Shannon&Wilson, Lori Huntoon/Tetratech, Steve Sletten/Tetratech, John Gibbons/Tetratech, Jeff Tracy/Geosyntec, Balaji Seshasayee/Geosyntec, Rula Deeb/Geosyntec, Kirk Craig/Geosyntec, Hamid Amini/Geosyntec,
Phoned-In: 9499****45/Hamid Amini/Geosyntec

1) Approve Minutes of March 1st & March 8th 2022 Meeting.

Herbst moved to approve the minutes of the March 1st & March 8th 2022 meeting.
Seconded by Gehin.
Motion carried 4-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Robinson questioned timeline of geotechnical work for solar array and well 3 effects with PFAS and shutting down with the discharge to the river.

Lindman replied soon as we could get a machine in to start digging test pits, hopefully early this Spring. Ideally would like to shut well 3 down and our consultant will work with EPA to see what timeline they have for us to shut that down.

Herbst questioned what the update was for bottled water and pitchers.

Rosenberg stated water has been going at a steady pace, pitchers are being distributed via notification to people via phone/email when their pitchers are ready for pickup. I think we had 1500 delivered.

Boers replied no timeline for next order but another 2700 will be on order.

Robinson questioned employment issues, if we could work with other departments to get some other innovative ways, non-traditional methods to re-prioritizing work.

Lindman stated we are relying on HR, staffing has been very challenging. We've reduced most of our job qualifications and are down to the point where we have to raise starting wages to attract more people. We can't make any more edits to our job descriptions because we are basically down to high school education and very little but more preferred experience rather than required. The Utility staff are addressing issues as they come up but then a lot of the

maintenance work gets pushed back and deferred to a later time.

Gehin questioned the timeline for the Industrial Park force main cleaning that started.

Brooks replied it would probably run into next week.

Force questioned if the joint neighborhood and staff meet regarding the proposed solar array in the near future would have their recommendations being incorporated into a landscape plan.

Lindman replied the community wanted to see some ideas on what things would look like. We will present them the current draft landscape renderings and have them comment and provide feedback with any changes. The residents wanted more information on concepts from the plan and profiles as viewed from their homes. The challenges were explaining what a berm would look like or what the plants would look like. At this time, I do not have a meeting set up with the neighborhood group.

Gehin questioned if it would make sense to put that on hold until a decision was made if extra space was needed at the new plant because that could change the landscape.

Rosenberg stated that could be a future agenda topic.

Director's Report placed on file.

3) Presentation Presentations from Engineering/Consulting Firms Regarding Expertise Related PFAS Treatment and Removal from Drinking Water Systems.

- a. CDM Smith**
- b. Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions Inc.**
- c. Shannon & Wilson**
- d. Tetra Tech**
- e. Geosyntec Solutions**
- f. AECOM**

Refer to City's Website Calendar under Wausau Water Works Commission on April 6th 2022 for PFAS Proposal Packets along with the Presentations.

No Action Taken.

4) CLOSED SESSION Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, for the Purpose of Deliberating or Negotiating the Purchasing of Public Properties, the Investing of Public Funds, or Conducting Other Specified Public Business, Whenever Competitive or Bargaining Reasons Require a Closed Session, Regarding Consideration of Responses to the City's Request for Qualifications for Professional Experience Related to PFAS Treatment & Removal from Drinking Water.

Rosenberg stated there is an option for closed session, however, Mr. Robinson would not be able to join based on council rules.

Force questioned if there needed to be a decision tonight? He'd like to review what they would want the firm to be able to do.

Robinson agreed with Force on holding off the decision and wanted to look for someone with experience in the regulatory involvement in the PFAS related/ design and shaping the City's response to accelerate it. We could benefit in a 3rd party helping us meet that goal.

Gehin reiterated the agreement of delaying the decision until Robinson could be in person.

Force stated he saw different strengths and different directions.

Rosenberg stated some important factors that drew her in was the firm with the experience with PFAS removal from Wisconsin because of the similar water quality issues, the discussion about the regulatory negotiations each firm had their own way, and also appreciated the one with lower cost solutions that had cost-effective solutions because that's important to our tax rate payers.

Robinson stated the experience and life-cycle analysis and the regulatory framework would be some criteria we would like to look at, maybe prepare a matrix so we could all be on the same page. Maybe we could come back in a few days.

Lindman stated staff could put together a matrix for the commissioners, pass that out and get comments/additions/edits back, then form that meeting.

Gehin advised we should talk to our current consultants as well and understand their view and pilot work so we can nail this together.

Robinson questioned if we could pick a date and he is free any evening next week but for a day meeting would be available Monday, Thursday or Friday.

Force stated that a day meeting is fine as we are not getting a lot of citizens in our evening meetings.

Rosenberg stated next week, we will have criteria, we will discuss and make a decision and will send out notification on potential dates/times.

No Action Taken.

5) RECONVENE Meeting into Open Session for the Purpose of Acting Upon Closed Session Item if Necessary.

No Action Taken.

6) Discussion and Possible Action on Supplementing the Sale of Rain Barrels in 2022 and Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Again with Rain Water Solutions, Inc.

Force moved to do the same program as last year with the same vendor and same process.

Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

7) Discussion and Possible Action on Increasing the Funding Amount for Lead Line Services on the Homeowner's Side.

Boers began we've been awarded \$450,000 for private side lead line services, cost are going up like everything else these days, we've been asked if there were any thought on increasing the funding amount, concerns on our end would be that the plumbers would be raising their prices and anything over our funding amount would go to the residents having to provide more costs and would deter replacements so we are asking if there are any interest from the Commission to adjust our payment schedule for the funding. We currently have it set for \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Robinson questioned when we set that price and if we were targeting percentage or incentives and what the recommendation would be.

Boers replied 2016 was our first year and we are making a recommendation of \$1,000-\$2,000 increase.

Force moved to accept recommendation and move from \$3,000 to \$4,000 and from \$5,000 to \$6,000 on the homeowner reimbursement. Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

8) Discussion and Possible Action on Future Bottling of Northwoods Mist.

Boers began that Northwoods Mist was no longer co-packing for outside water sources and after a quick search we could not find any copackers in the area willing to do that. From our prior discussions we've had with plastic bottles, now would be a good time to discontinue that practice making it official.

Force moved to suspend the program. Seconded by Robinson.

Motion carried 5-0.

9) Discussion and Possible Action on Sole Source Purchase of Polymer for the Gravity Belt Thickener and Belt Filter Press.

Brooks stated we are seeking a sole source purchase of Polymer for the Gravity Belt Thickener and Belt Filter Press.

Lindman added there was also an additional option to renew for a second year based on review of prices by staff.

Gehin moved to accept staff's recommendation on the sole source purchase of Polymer and the Belt Filter Press. Seconded by Herbst.

Motion carried 5-0.

10) Discussion and Possible Action on Sole Source Purchase of an Emergency Bypass Pump System.

Brooks stated we are seeking approval on the sole source purchasing of an Emergency Bypass Pump that is used in the event of an emergency of lift stations while draining or transferring processed liquids. We do not have a pump of this size which is 6 inches.

Robinson questioned if we could advance it towards procurement policies versus sole sourcing.

Lindman stated we didn't go out on a closed bid process, anything over \$25,000 would require a bid, these are quotes versus a bid, so procurement policy requires us to run a sole source.

Groat replied to clarify the motion/ modify procurement to quote, obtain given the need to develop special product and accept the lower/preferred vendor.

Force questioned the urgency of this need.

Brooks replied this was an item that has been listed for several years and he was asked this to be one of the first items to be brought forth.

Force moved to accept the recommendation on the sole source purchase of an Emergency Bypass pump system from the local pump supplier that had the lower cost. Seconded by Gehin.

Motion carried 5-0.

11) Discussion and Possible Action on Consent to Termination of the Redevelopment Agreement by and Between the Redevelopment Authority of The City of Wausau, Wisconsin and Wausau Joint Venture.

Jacobsen stated this was a formality. The parties have agreed as conditions in the second amendment that would terminate the original redevelopment plan and then terminate the original redevelopment agreement. Both actions would be taken by the Redevelopment Authority. One of the conditions was to get the four bodies to terminate the original redevelopment agreement.

Robinson requested if we could do the repeal contingent upon the second amendment in place.

Jacobsen stated it's contingent upon obtaining all of the approvals in advance so we are seeking to terminate the agreement before April 12th. The second amendment had many conditions, the chances of it not getting approved were very slim.

Robinson moved to terminate the 1979 redevelopment agreement. Seconded by Force.

Motion carried 5-0.

Gehin requested to go back to the Director's Report item and would like Brooks to

comment on his thoughts to help with staffing issues.

Brooks suggested that a lot of the water/wastewater positions both require skill trades and educated employees. To maintain and attract the employees we have now and in the future, the City of Wausau should remain competitive in the wage and benefit areas. The City of Wausau should have the desire and need for that and I would suggest that the City try to be more competitive with the current market.

Rosenberg thanked him for his suggestion.

12) Discussion on Future Meeting Dates and Times for Wausau Water Works Commission.

Rosenberg stated the dates/times were discussed already and advised the Committee to check their emails.

No Action Taken.

13) Adjourn.

There being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn by Herbst. Seconded by Gehin.

Link to view meeting in its entirety: <https://tinyurl.com/wausaucitycouncil>

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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