

## **PUBLIC HEARING - WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FACILITY PLAN FEBRUARY 2, 2022**

**City Council Members present:** Mayor Wiens, Councilors Hanson, Gengler, Turgeon, and Cooper.

**Utility Commission Member present:** Chairman McCoy, Commissioners Johnson and Ahrenstorff.

**Staff members present:** Taylor Gronau, City Administrator; Jeremy Hutchens, Water/Wastewater Superintendent; John Graupman, Bolton & Menk; Mitchell Swanson, Bolton & Menk; Brian Sarff, Bolton & Menk.

**Others present:** Mark Bullen, Jim Peterson, Tim Grant, Debbie Grant, Helen Balcombe, Barb Rock, Steve Michael, Garnann Aderman.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Wiens opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the public hearing was to answer questions and hear comment on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Plan.

John Graupman, Bolton & Menk, presented the Plan. The Plan studied and evaluated the City's wastewater treatment facility needs. The Plan determined the existing treatment plant is approaching its hydraulic capacity and has a limited ability to meet new phosphorus limits. The Plan reviewed several alternatives to address the deficiencies of the current plant, including:

1. Rehabilitating the existing plant.
2. Constructing a new pond or mechanical treatment facility on the existing site or on a greenfield site.
3. Regionalizing with Mankato or Madelia.

For various reasons, rehabilitating the existing plant, constructing a pond system, constructing a new mechanical treatment facility on the existing site, and regionalizing with Madelia are not viable or preferred options. Discussion focused on constructing a mechanical treatment facility on a greenfield site or regionalizing with Mankato.

Constructing a mechanical treatment facility on a greenfield site is estimated to cost \$20.0M - \$24.5M. This is the costliest alternative, but it will allow the City to increase its treatment capacity and is eligible for grants. Regionalizing with Mankato is estimated to cost \$12.9M - \$15.9M. This alternative is eligible for grants and will reduce the City's capital costs, but operation costs will increase.

The city will need to determine which alternative it would like to proceed with prior to submission of the Plan to the State of Minnesota.

Depending upon funding availability, the cost per sewer connection is estimated to increase \$45 (Mankato) to \$67 (New facility) per month. Funding sources include the Clean Water

Revolving Fund, Wastewater Infrastructure Funding, and Point Source Implementation Grant. The city will also request direct appropriations from the state legislature.

Several individuals spoke or asked questions. Questions focused on the following topics:

- Location of a new plant;
- Route of the sewer main to Mankato;
- Property and right-of-way acquisition needs for both alternatives;
- Capacity constraints in Mankato;
- Expected longevity of the current Mankato plant;
- How future capital projects in Mankato will affect the rate Lake Crystal pays;
- The type of plant Mankato has;
- The cost of the options and impact on rates;

One comment was made in support of regionalizing with Mankato. No other comments were made in support or opposition to either alternative.

There being no further business the hearing was closed at 6:44 p.m.

---

Todd Wiens, Mayor

---

Taylor Gronau, City Administrator