

**Hastings, Minnesota
City Council Workshop
March 4, 2019**

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a workshop on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Volunteer Room at the Hastings City Hall, 101 East 4th Street, Hastings, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor Fasbender, Councilmembers Balsanek, Braucks, Lund, Folch, Vaughan

Members Absent: Councilmember Leifeld

Staff Present: Interim City Administrator Julie Flaten
City Attorney Dan Fluegel
Public Works Director Nick Egger
Finance Manager Melanie Lammers

MDH Staff Karla Peterson, Community Public Water Supply Unit
Stantec: Ryan Capelle, Henry Croll

The workshop convened at 5:30 p.m.

Public Works Director Nick Egger, provided a presentation which discussed other potential threats to the City water system from Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFC) and Nitrates. Current levels in Hastings wells and possible Minnesota Department of Health changes to maximum allowed level were discussed. Egger provided information on the type of water disinfection method utilized by many peer communities.

Staff is recommending the gas chlorination method of permanent water disinfection. This method is widely used and highly effective at protecting against contamination while water is in transport throughout system. The method provides constant chlorine concentration which will minimize taste and odor variability. The approximate initial capital cost is \$440,000 and ongoing costs are estimated at \$44,000 annually.

Lammers presented three options for funding the gas chlorination method. The preferred option utilizes WAC fund balance and a smaller portion of water fund balance. This option provides for the least impact on utility rate increases in the future.

Council discussion on nitrates and PFC levels in water system and when these may need to be addressed in the future. Council also discussed the option of “doing nothing” or providing no permanent disinfection method. Attorney Fluegel provided his assessment of the risks that choice may pose to the City. Alternative times of year to chlorinate and people’s perception of chemical ingestion were also discussed. Council discussed the importance of communication

with the public to promote an understanding of why permanent disinfection is a public safety issue.

Next steps include a community open house with the Department of Health in late March or early April. Staff will bring recommendation to full council for approval after receiving public input.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Vaughan, seconded by Councilmember Balsanek at 6:55 p.m.

Mary Fasbender, Mayor

Julie Flaten, City Clerk