

**Hastings, Minnesota
City Council Workshop
August 7, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Hastings, Minnesota met in a workshop on Monday, August 7, 2023 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 Folch, Fox, Haus, Lawrence, Leifeld, Pemble

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Dan Wietecha
Interim Public Works Director Ryan Stempski
Assistant City Administrator Kelly Murtaugh
Community Development Director John Hinzman

Mayor Fasbender called the workshop to order at 5:30 p.m., welcoming Council members and Public Works Director Ryan Stempski to provide an update on PFAS. Stempski provided an outline of the topics to be presented: status of the environmental review, the goals, an evaluation of the options to address the issue, the costs associated with the preferred option, funding sources, and next steps.

Stempski reminded Council that the current measurement standards that the six City wells adhere to the current index and levels have been steady. However, the new standards are expected to be released by the end of this year.

Stempski reported on the status of the Environmental Review by MPCA. Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 has started. They meet monthly to discuss the activities. The deliverables that we are waiting on include modeling results, MGS complexities, and investigations of other potential sites.

The study goals are to evaluation options to mitigate PFAS from drinking water, update the water model to determine feasibility and cost estimates, and provide recommendations on the most cost-effective solution.

The options include blending existing wells to dilute below the limits, construct deeper wells, purchase treated water from St. Paul Regional Water Services, or implement treatment on existing wells. Treatment is the only feasible option. Several treatment options were reviewed to treat PFAS and continue to treat nitrates. The most common treatment technologies include Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) and Ion Exchange (IX). The next recommendation is that the system be decentralized (three vs one plant). This is preferred because the construction can be phased, it provides operational flexibility and resiliency, wells can continue to pump into existing pressure zones, and existing distribution mains are adequately sized.

Treatment facilities can be built alongside existing wells on City property and would be located to accommodate City growth.

Stempski indicated that the City needs to consider not only project costs but also the operation and maintenance costs. The capital cost for the treatment facilities is expected to be nearly \$70M, with annual operating and maintenance costs estimated to be \$800K to \$1M. The Veteran's Home wells also have PFAS concerns and the City may also serve this location in the future.

The potential funding sources include water rates, 3M settlement funds, funds approved in the Governor's Budget, bonding through the state legislature, federal funding through the Community Projects Funds or infrastructure law, or the state project priority list.

Stempski indicated that a lot of groundwork has been done to put the City in a good position to continue moving forward. They will continue working with the Co-Trustees of the 3M settlement funds and environmental attorney, prepare for upcoming state/federal grants, and continue to be transparent with the public about the upcoming advisory and progress toward treatment. Council support to continue these steps will be needed.

Council discussion on transparency and communication with residents and general support for continuing to move forward.

The workshop adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Mary D. Fasbender, Mayor

Kelly Murtaugh, City Clerk