



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wastewater Commission

Thursday, October 17, 2024

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 207

Rescheduled from 10/15/24

The meeting was called to order by Wastewater Commission President, Natalia Taft, at 6:14 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Let the record show that Commissioner Sullivan was voting as an alternate in the absence of Commissioner Sheppard, who was excused.

PRESENT: 10 - Natalia Taft, John Tate II, Cory Mason, Terry McCarthy, Anthony Bunkelman, Mollie Jones, Jens Jorgenson, Jack Feiner, Jim Sullivan and Claude Lois

EXCUSED: 4 - Stacy Sheppard, Anthony Beyer, Kevin Salb and Nancy Washburn

[0882-24](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the September 17, 2024, Wastewater Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Jorgenson, that this file be Approved.

[0928-24](#)

Subject: Discussion and Possible Action to Change Meeting Day, Date, and Start Time of Wastewater Commission Meetings

Fiscal Note: N/A

In congruency with the same item previously discussed and voted upon during the Waterworks Commission Meeting, it was proposed that the meetings be moved from the third Tuesday to the third Wednesday of each month with the Wastewater Commission Meeting being held first at 5:30 p.m.; followed by the Waterworks Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m. This change will take effect for the November 20, 2024, Commission Meeting. It was also directed that a zoom link be made available for meetings with the understanding that Commissioners make every effort to attend in person, and only utilize zoom when unpreventable circumstances occur.

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Vice President Tate II, that this file be Approved.

[0883-24](#)

Subject: Authorization for the Utility Director to Accept the 2025

WI-DATCP Household Hazardous Waste Grant

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: \$51,285.82 grant to be used for HHW operations in 2025.

The Wastewater Utility Director requested authorization for the Utility to accept the Wisconsin DATCP HHW grant offer of \$51,285.82 for the year 2025.

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Alder McCarthy, that this file be Approved.

[0884-24](#)

Subject: Request from Utility Director for Authorization to Submit CWFL Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for FY2026 Main and Goold Interceptor Project

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director requested authorization to submit a CWFL-ITA & PERF to the DNR for the N. Main & Goold Interceptor Project for FY2026. Despite the fact that the project is currently on hold due to the City's challenge to costs allocation methodology, the ITA will serve as a "placeholder" for the Utility to remain in current standing for consideration of funds through a ranking system, should the issues be resolved enabling the project to move forward.

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Alder McCarthy, that this file be Approved.

[0885-24](#)

Subject: Request from Utility Director for Authorization to Submit CWFL Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for FY2026 Engine/Generator Project Phase II

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director requested authorization to submit a CWFL-ITA & PERF to the DNR for the Engine/Blower Project - Phase 2, for FY2026. This project will add redundancy and increase capacity to take conditioned biogas from digestion and convert it to electricity to offset the demand with renewable energy. The ITA will serve as a "placeholder" for the Utility to remain in current standing for consideration of funds through a ranking system. Phase 1 of this project is currently under construction and is slated to be completed in 2026.

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Bunkelman, that this file be Approved.

[0886-24](#)

Subject: Change Order No. 2 on Contract C-22, Engine/Blower Project, August Winter & Sons, Inc. (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in an increase of \$870,714.00, bringing the total contract amount to \$6,469,913.00.

The Wastewater Utility Director, together with AECOM Project Manager, Mike Zapinski, presented Change Order No. 2 on Contract C-22, Engine/Blower Project. Concerns were shared about the high dollar amount of the change order and percentage of original contract. Questions also arose referencing a 15% threshold, and if the contract needed more scrutiny. It was originally proposed and motioned that this item be deferred until the Utility could consult with the City Attorney to determine if there is a 15% increase threshold on change orders received from contractors, and how to proceed & resolve this issue with any applicable legal ramifications based on the city ordinances. This motion and second were later withdrawn after it was determined that payment couldn't be withheld due to the electrical equipment already being on order, and the necessity of keeping the project moving along on schedule. The motion was then amended to approve this change order on the condition that the Utility consult with the City Attorney for a legal opinion.

A motion was made by Jorgenson, seconded by Alder McCarthy, that this file be Recommended For Approval with the condition that the Utility Director consult with the City Attorney about the 15% limit threshold and any ordinance that may apply regarding change order amounts.

[0887-24](#)

Subject: Change Order No. 1 on Contract A-22, Chicory Road Area Sewer Improvements - Interceptor, A.W. Oakes & Son (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in an increase of \$154,535.54 bringing the total contract amount to \$4,898,174.54.

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Lois, that this file be Approved.

[0888-24](#)

Subject: Request for Final Payment on Contract A-22, Chicory Road Area Sewer Improvements - Interceptor, A.W. Oakes & Son (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Final closeout brings the total contract amount to \$4,898,174.54.

The Wastewater Utility Director submitted final payment request on Contract A-22, and recommended for approval that work performed by A.W. Oakes & Son be accepted and final payment authorized.

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Bunkelman, that this file be Approved.

[0890-24](#)

Subject: Annual Update Regarding the City of Racine Peak Flow Mitigation Plan

Recommendation of the Wastewater Commission on 10/17/24: To Defer this Item until the November Commission Meeting

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Vice President Tate II, that this file be Deferred.

[0891-24](#)

Subject: Proposal from the Village of Caledonia for Sanitary Sewer Mitigation Plan

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Village of Caledonia Public Services Director, Anthony Bunkelman, presented the Village's proposed mitigation plan, which contained updates from the last mitigation plan that was presented to the Commission in July 2021. The plan highlighted peak hourly flows, which are historically an area of non-compliance. The plan also detailed both completed and planned activities that directly impact potential exceedances. Safety sites proposed in the previous plan were removed due to the capacity of the pump stations to handle design flows. The Village of Caledonia will provide annual updates on its mitigation activities and strategies to the Commission.

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Vice President Tate II, that this file be Approved.

[0892-24](#)

Subject: Request by the Village of Caledonia for a Sanitary Sewer Extension for Caledonia Corporate Park South

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director presented the sewer extension request for Caledonia Corporate Park South, which is located in the Village's TID #4, and will serve an area with approved plans for a 310,790 sq ft. cold storage building. Per Sewer Agreement Section 3.3a, the Commission is required to approve all SSR party sanitary sewer extensions. The extension entails approximately 275 L.F. of 12" PVC of sanitary sewer. The anticipated average daily flows are expected to be well within the allocated conveyance and treatment capacities.

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Bunkelman, that this file be Approved

[0893-24](#)

Subject: Request by the Village of Mount Pleasant for a Sanitary Sewer Extension for Wisconn Valley Way

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director presented the sewer extension request for Wisconn Valley Way, which will serve approximately 410 acres of service area east and west of Wisconn Valley Way bounded by CTH KR on the south and STH 11 on the north. Per Sewer Agreement Section 3.3a, the Commission is required to approve all SSR party sanitary sewer extensions. The extension entails approximately 11,392 L.F. OF 8", 18", 21" and 24" PVC of sanitary sewer. The anticipated average daily flows are expected to be well within the allocated conveyance and treatment capacities.

A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Bunkelman, that this file be Approved.

[0894-24](#)

Subject: Consideration and Possible Action to Extend the Curative Action Resolution Time Periods

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director opened discussion on this item by reminding Commissioners that at the special Commission Meeting that was held on 9/11/24, the Commission voted to extend the date for the Curative Action Resolution period until 10/21/24. This would allow for the involved parties and their respective legal counsel to continue to negotiate without escalations detailed in the sewer agreement. Discussion ensued about whether the Commission should extend the Curative Action date up to 90 days or if the 60 days specified in the Sewer Agreement be activated.

A motion was made by Lois to extend the curative action for up to 90 days. Commissioner Jorgenson motioned that that the Commission extend the curative action until the date of the November meeting with the intent that Commission's Legal Counsel be in attendance to provide an update to the Commission. President Taft then suggested the date be extended up to 90 days, taking it to the January 15, 2025, meeting date, also with the understanding that the Commission receive an update from Legal Counsel at the November meeting date.

Commissioner Lois amended the motion to reflect the suggestions made by President Taft and Commissioner Jorgenson. The motion was seconded by Bunkelman and passed by a voice vote with one nay vote recorded.

CLOSED SESSION

[0895-24](#)

Subject: Communication Sponsored by Alder McCarthy Requesting that the Wastewater Commission Meet Regarding Bargaining and Development Opportunities, which, for Competitive and Bargaining Reasons, Require a Closed Session

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by President Taft that this file be Deferred until the next meeting when City Attorney Letteney could be present for the update.

OPEN SESSION

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.