



ITEM REPORT UTILITIES COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 6/8/2022
Agenda Section: Information Only

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: Support with the Update and Revision of Title 8, Chapter 2 – Sewer Use and Service, of the Baxter City Code Project Monthly Update

Approval Required: No Action Required

BACKGROUND

The City has been in discussions with the Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) Commission on issuing the pretreatment agreement for the leachate from the BNSF tie facility. Staff feels that the best approach would be to develop a pretreatment permit structure where BPU would permit and monitor the parameters that could impact their treatment facility, and Baxter would permit and monitor those parameters that could impact the conveyance infrastructure owned by the City. The current code requires Baxter to permit and be responsible for the discharge from the tie facility but provides very little control over that discharge. This same approach could be applied to other significant industrial dischargers that discharge to Baxter's collection, but where the wastewater is treated by BPU. Any revenue derived from this wastewater is essentially a pass-through cost for the City. This new approach will require significant changes to the City's Sewer Use and Service Ordinance.

Staff advises that the current Sewer Use and Service Code has not undergone a comprehensive review and update since it was originally developed in the mid-1980's. Staff feels that it would be beneficial to undergo a comprehensive review and update in conjunction with the changes that will be necessary to implement the industrial pretreatment permitting modifications. It would enable the Ordinance/Code to be brought up to date with current regulatory conditions.

5/26/2022 Update

SEH reviewed the draft final suggested language updates with the Utilities Commission (UC) in February. The revisions and UC comments are being reviewed by the City Attorney prior to taking to the City Council for final approval in the coming months. SEH continues to coordinate with the City of Brainerd/BPU and their consultant on their ordinance updates. The last step in the process will be updating the City of Baxter's permit forms.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

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COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

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