

Water Commission

REGULAR MEETING **DRAFT MINUTES** (Excerpt Capital Appropriation)

Thursday, July 17, 2025 – 5:30 PM

222 Laporte Ave., 1st Floor, Colorado River Room

1. REGULAR (ACTION) ITEMS

a. Mid-Cycle Appropriation from Wastewater Reserves for North Process Train Blower Replacement

Plant Director of Drake Water Reclamation Facility Christina Schroeder provided highlights of the appropriation request to replace a failed blower (that is currently inoperable) to comply with discharge permit requirements. Plant Engineer Mandy Rasmussen attended as staff support. Ms. Schroeder described the blowers (installed in 2011) as the lungs of the reclamation facility and highly critical to the treatment process; the blowers are no longer supported by the vendor; the facility is now limited to three of four blowers required by the State of Colorado Water Quality Division. Engineer's opinion of probable cost is \$2,350,000. The project was initiated with Water Reclamation and Biosolids replacement program funds (\$650,000). This item is scheduled for the Aug. 19 City Council meeting.

Discussion Highlights

Commissioners commented on and inquired about various related topics including whether the City is subject to fines (Ms. Schroeder replied not at this time; a fine would occur only if the facility were unable to fulfill discharge requirements); improvements in equipment technology and design (Fort Collins Utilities is not the only municipality to replace its blowers earlier than the 20-year expected life of the equipment (Boulder replaced its blowers several years ago, for example); whether other projects are competing for the funding; Utilities Finance Director Joe Wimmer stated that staff is comfortable using reserves now and that other repair/replacement projects identified in the master plan will be funded by issuing debt (the wastewater fund currently has no debt and will be in a good position to enter the market).

Commissioner Kahn moved that the Water Commission recommends City Council approve a mid-cycle appropriation of \$1.7 million from wastewater reserves for North Process Train Blower replacement.

Commissioner Martin seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: **it passed unanimously, 8-0**

b. Mid-Cycle Appropriation from Waster Reserves for Emergency Replacement of Lemay Avenue Waterline

Staff requested a Water Commission recommendation for City Council approval to replacement the 20-inch waterline – originally constructed in 1977 – in Lemay Avenue between Harmony Road and Harbor Walk. Water Field Operations Manager Andrew Gingerich summarized the history and details of

the seven water main leaks over two months in Lemay Avenue between Harbor Walk and Breakwater. Each leak requires full closure of Lemay Avenue for 18 to 24 hours, and repair costs are estimated between \$140,000 to \$175,000 (each leak costs approximately \$20,000). Leak repair doesn't affect individual services but creates isolated system vulnerability. Vintage pipes were installed in 1979 and 1985. Construction can be completed by summer 2026. Engineer's opinion of probable cost is \$3.4 million.

Discussion Highlights

Commissioners commented on and inquired about various related topics including the southern piece of pipe down to Harmony Road's north side, replacement would be from north of Harmony (not into the Harmony/Lemay intersection; comment 2,800 feet is a lot of pipe (a half-mile); assessments can happen only during a water main leak; possibility of trenchless repair (Mr. Gingerich stated it's possible and that staff will evaluate this during the design process); whether Streets Department budget contains money for this paving (staff replied that Utilities pays Streets Department for asphalt patching, paving, and traffic control.)

Commissioner Martin moved that Water Commission recommends City Council approve a mid-cycle appropriation of \$3.4 million from water reserves for Lemay Avenue 20" Water Transmission Main Emergency Replacement.

Commissioner Herman seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: **it passed unanimously, 8-0**