

Council Agenda Summary

February 2, 2021

Key Staff Contact: Sean Chambers, Water & Sewer Director, 970-350-9815

Title:

Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Sections 14.08.090 and 14.08.160 of the Greeley Municipal Code (Concerning Water Use Restrictions and Drought Response)

Summary:

Greeley's current Drought Emergency Plan is more than 15 years old. Since that time our population has grown by several thousand people and a lot has changed. Our watersheds have been severely impacted by major wildfires in 2012, 2013 and 2020, adding to the supply side uncertainty that must be managed. The city has invested in demand management policy and programs that promote wise water use; and the data shows a consistent decline in water consumption per account. The Water and Sewer Dept. have acquired additional water rights for the supply portfolio and we've undertaken an examination of future water needs and system drought performance. The city overhauled its billing structure to implement tiered pricing and wise water use ethics with the water budget rate structure for single-family residential customers. Therefore, a re-evaluation of the Drought Emergency Plan is necessary to ensure responsible water supply planning. Beginning in mid-2019, Staff performed a case study and literature review, data analysis and received feedback from the Water and Sewer Board. The final plan was presented to the Water and Sewer Board on January 20, 2021. The Water and Sewer Board adopted the plan and recommended that City Council approve associated revisions to the Greeley Municipal Code, in the form of the enclosed ordinance.

Fiscal Impact:

Does this item create a fiscal impact on the City of Greeley?	Yes
If yes, what is the initial, or, onetime impact?	N/A
What is the annual impact?	Unknown
What fund of the City will provide Funding?	Water Operating
What is the source of revenue within the fund?	Water Rates
Is there grant funding for this item?	No
If yes, does this grant require a match?	
Is this grant onetime or ongoing?	
Additional Comments:	Drought mitigation efforts may have short term negative impacts to water rate revenue, however, this will be partially offset by a drought contingency reserve within the Water Fund and greater certainty that the city has the right tools and policy to respond appropriately and transparently to future droughts.

Legal Issues:

Consideration of this matter is a legislative process. The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the proposed ordinance.

Other Issues and Considerations:

The Drought Emergency Plan and proposed ordinance are an important step towards the Strategic Work Program goal in priority no. 4, Increase water conservation efforts and build a culture of conservation.

Applicable Council Priority and Goal:

Infrastructure & Growth: Establish the capital and human infrastructure to support and maintain a safe, competitive, appealing and successful community.

Decision Options:

- 1) Introduce the ordinance as presented; or
- 2) Amend the ordinance and introduce as amended; or
- 3) Deny the ordinance; or
- 4) Continue consideration of the ordinance to a date certain.

Council's Recommended Action:

A motion to introduce the ordinance and schedule the public hearing and final reading for February 16, 2021.

Attachments:

Ordinance
Presentation