

Council Agenda Summary

January 18, 2022

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

Title:

Public hearing and final reading of an ordinance amending Title 20 of the Greeley Municipal Code concerning the use of non-potable water supplies for irrigation and the assessment of plant investment fees when non-potable water is utilized.

Summary:

Greeley has been utilizing non-potable (untreated raw water) irrigation since the Number 3 Ditch was built to water the City's parks and gardens. As Greeley has grown, the City expanded its non-potable system by utilizing the existing ditch systems used by the agricultural community. Currently, Greeley's non-potable system provides approximately 2,500 acre feet of water annually and primarily serves City owned parks and facilities with limited usage from private water customers.

The City's long-term water resource planning has identified that increasing non-potable water usage to over 7,000 acre feet annually is essential to meeting the build-out water demand for Greeley. Using non-potable water supplies for irrigation needs is advantageous for both the City and its customers. Non-potable water supplies are more attainable and affordable than potable water supplies that can be delivered and treated at Greeley's water treatment plants. Usually, less infrastructure investment is needed for non-potable water delivery and operational costs are less. The customer benefits by paying a 30% lower rate for non-potable water versus potable water.

To meet the long-term goal of delivering additional non-potable water, and ultimately meeting the City's long-term water resource demand, expanding the non-potable system must happen as new development occurs. Installing non-potable infrastructure during the land development process is less expensive and more effective than trying to retrofit a built-out neighborhood or commercial center. Expanding the non-potable system as development happens will also extend Greeley's potable supplies and infrastructure further into the future, meaning less investment by current water customers to meet new potable water demands.

This ordinance will amend Title 20 of the Greeley Municipal Code to make non-potable mandatory for new growth if certain criteria are met (irrigated common areas of two acres or greater or house to house non-potable if lot size is 13,000 square feet or greater). In return for non-potable installation, the builder will benefit for paying lower plant investment fees for their potable water service.

Fiscal Impact:

Does this item create a fiscal impact on the City of Greeley?	Yes
If yes, what is the initial, or, onetime impact?	None
What is the annual impact?	Unknown, dependent on the rate and type of new development
What fund of the City will provide Funding?	Water Construction Fund
What is the source of revenue within the fund?	Plant Investment Fees, Bonds
Is there grant funding for this item?	N/A
If yes, does this grant require a match?	
Is this grant onetime or ongoing?	
Additional Comments:	

Legal Issues:

Consideration of this matter is a legislative process. A second reading and public hearing on this ordinance may take place no sooner than 28 days after the introduction and first reading. GMC § 20-273. The ordinance was introduced on December 7, 2021, which constitutes 42 days between readings. The City Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the ordinance as to form.

Other Issues and Considerations:

The recommended action is consistent with the 2021 Non-Potable Water Master Plan and City Council strategic priority #5 to implement non-potable irrigation water systems.

Strategic Work Program Item or 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) Adopt the ordinance as presented; or
- 2) Amend the ordinance and adopt 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 adopt the ordinance and publish with reference to title only.

Attachments:

Ordinance
PowerPoint
Non-potable policy