



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager
FROM: Travis Foley
DATE OF MEETING: April 01, 2024
ITEM TITLE: Department Report - Utilities

Water –

- The Northwest well was pulled for routine maintenance and inspections (this is done for each well approximately every 7 years). The results of the inspection required five new sections of pipe and a new pump. All the repairs were made, and the well was put back together the week of March 18th. There were some concerns of discolored water during this same time. We are contributing this to the start up of the well causing the water flow to change direction, which may have stirred things up in the system.
- We will be doing the spring flushing of fire hydrants starting mid-April or early May. This will be posted online and, in the paper, before we start.
- We will be out using our valve exerciser this spring, exercising the main valves in town.
- Utility Services will be starting the renovations on the Northeast Shop Tower starting in late April or early May. They will be renovating the interior wet and exterior of this tower. This will be the last of the major renovations on the three towers in town that were started four years ago.
- There have been concerns about a strong chlorine smell in the water on the Southwest side of town. We are working with our well contractor and Iowa Rural Water Association to get this issue resolved.

Sewer –

- Visu sewer has completed the annual sewer cleaning on the NE side of town.
- We have been researching sewer cameras and have it narrowed down to two cameras. We will be going through hands on demonstrations with each camera company before deciding, in hopes of purchasing one after July 1st.

Wastewater-

- We are working on trying to make repairs to our biogas system. This system is all original equipment and is starting to fail. This is a unique system, making it hard to find someone to work on it, and its age is making it very difficult to find parts. I wanted council to be aware, as some of these repairs may be costly. We are doing our best to keep costs down, as it will not be a part of the new plant, but will have to go with whatever works, as this is something that must be repaired.
- We completed our spring biosolids hauling, of around 400,000 gallons of biosolids. This is done twice a year (spring in fall). The solids are pumped out using a cord system an injected in to near by farm fields.

- We continue to have regular meetings with the engineers, as they progress on the design of the new wastewater plant. They will be in attendance to give an update during this meeting.
- I would like to further discuss ideas for the addition of a lab tech in preparation for upcoming staffing changes.