



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

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**TO:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager  
**FROM:** Travis Foley – Utilities Department Director  
**DATE OF MEETING:** April 7, 2025  
**ITEM TITLE:** Department Report – Utilities

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### Project Update:

#### 8th Ave NE Project

As most are aware, we have experienced numerous issues with the water main along 8th Avenue NE. There have been multiple breaks, with the most recent being Saturday, March 29th. Last fall, we initiated the process of replacing the line by installing a new main from 7th St. to 8th St. The plan is to continue running the new main north to 10th St. and south to 5th St. Typically, a project like this would be completed in its entirety by a third-party contractor. After some internal discussion, we have developed a plan for the city to collaborate with a third-party contractor and complete a significant portion of the project with city staff. By doing so, I believe we will see substantial cost savings. I currently have funds allocated in the 2026 budget for this project. The amount budgeted was initially intended to pay for a contractor to complete 100% of the work and half of the project. By modifying the plan and collaborating with the Utilities and Streets Departments and a third-party contractor, I aim to complete both halves of the project for approximately the same price that we have budgeted for one half.

#### Water –

We will be out working on the Spring flushing starting this month. The schedule will be as follows:

Southeast – Week of April 14<sup>th</sup>

Southwest – Week of April 21<sup>st</sup>

Northwest – Week of April 28<sup>th</sup>

Northeast – Week of May 5<sup>th</sup>

We will post this online and in the paper, as we have in previous years.

#### Sewer –

We have been out using the camera and inspecting the sewer mains. We are seeing an increase in root issues developing. I believe this is due to the dry conditions we've been experiencing, that is causing the roots to go deeper in search of moisture. We have purchased

a new root cutter that attaches to the jet machine to help address these issues when they are identified.

#### Wastewater –

We hired a new Lab Technician, Samira Yearous. She will work with the current lab technician and receive training until her retirement date.

The plant is running as it should. Disinfection season started on March 15<sup>th</sup>, so that is now up and running. (We currently use gas chlorine for this. The new process will be UV disinfection.)

- As a whole, we are working on spring maintenance and other day-to-day activities.