



To: Mayor and City Council

From: Dylan Mulfinger

Subject: Status of the Oelwein Aquatic Center 2020

Date: 5/11/2020

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The City of Oelwein has the difficult decision to make concerning the Oelwein Aquatic Center and its 2020 season. This decision is not easy, and staff has worked to determine the best choice for the community. Staff has contacted pool staff and learned that most staff members would work should the city open the pool. Staff called season pass holders and learned that if the pool opened this summer parents would still send their children to the pool. While this information is positive, it does not take into account the work that will be required to operate the pool in 2020. The City will have to follow all state and federal guidelines to have the pool open during the 2020 season. This means supplying more PPE and needing more staff for more rotations.

Parks Superintendent Josh Johnson has done a great job of preparing material to show what must occur to open the pool. The city will have to use extensive amount of time from the parks staff on top of the pool staff to monitor the pool this season. This will slow down progress in the Parks Department in 2020. While progress in 2020 is already difficult, the added requirements to keep the pool open provide for more reasons to close the facility than to open the facility.

Maintaining social distance in the pool will be difficult as the pool environment is designed for children to engage other children and enjoy their time. Once a pool patron decides not to follow the rules, they jeopardize the health and safety of other patrons, and most importantly pool staff. Regardless of personal feelings on the pandemic, the city does not have enough information to ensure the pool will be a safe place this summer for families to enjoy.

The city takes a loss on the pool each year near \$75,000. This loss could be as high as \$100,000 if community members choose not to attend the pool this summer. The city will go into the 2021 fiscal year knowing that revenues will be down from the pandemic. Taking out the emotion and looking at the financials, it is clear to not hold a 2020 season for the pool.

I, the City Administrator, love the Oelwein aquatic center. I love that I can walk to the pool with my family and enjoy a wonderful facility in the late afternoon. I believe the Oelwein Aquatic Center is a joyful asset to the community. I grew up going to the pool all the time even though I lived in the country. The pool is an important pass time for community members in the summer. I do not want to take the pool away from the children or families of the community, but I understand 2020 is not a regular year. It is my professional recommendation that the city do not open the Oelwein Aquatic Center for the 2020. Should council persist that the Aquatic Center be open, staff will create a plan to open the pool with several restrictions.