



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/22/2026

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Jordan Skiff, Wastewater Superintendent

SUBJECT: Resolution 158-25-26 – Approving Engineering Contract—Ultraviolet (UV) Light Disinfection System Conversion (Strand Associates)

ISSUE

Should the Public Works Committee recommend approval of a proposed contract for a WWTP design contract?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the February 2nd City Council meeting, I am requesting approval of an engineering design contract with the Strand Associates to design a major upgrade to the wastewater plant, a conversion of our disinfection process from using bleach and bisulfite chemicals to using UV light. The contract is based on a proposal Strand submitted as part of an RFP (request for proposals) process.

Disinfecting the wastewater immediately before being discharged into Lake Michigan is one of the most critical parts of our treatment process. This is especially true in Sheboygan, where our DNR permit requires year-round disinfection and meeting limits for both fecal coliform and e. coli (unlike many other plants). A brief study by Strand last year showed that UV disinfection is compatible with the hydraulic conditions at the Plant and has a comparable 20-year cost to continuing to use chemicals. Our current chemical system presents risk to our staff and drivers and is highly corrosive. Continuing to use chemicals would require a significant investment in new tanks, and chemical prices are much higher than they were a few years ago.

Transitioning to using UV light to disinfect is a step most wastewater plants have taken. This technology has been in use for decades and is safer and more stable in costs than using chemicals. A new UV system would make structural modifications to chlorine contact basins we currently use and divert the water to flow over banks of UV bulbs before leaving the Plant.

An Intent to Apply (ITA) has been submitted for a Clean Water Fund loan for this project.

IF APPROVED, NEXT STEPS

A design contract will be entered with Strand, who will complete plans, specifications and bidding documents for the construction project to be bid out. A 2027 or 2028 project is anticipated.

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PUBLIC WORKS

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