



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Proposed Name Change to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Preferred Agenda: April 26, 2022

Submitted By: Greg Springman, Public Works Director

Reviewed By: Christy Wurster, City Manager Pro Tem

Type of Action: Resolution ____ Motion X Roll Call ____ Other ____

Relevant Code/Policy: N/A

Towards Council Goal: N/A

Attachments: List of Suggested Names for Wastewater Treatment Plant
Resolution No. 32 for 2016

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to seek Council approval to rename the City's upgraded Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Background/Context:

Over the past few years, the City has made significant progress to complete the final design for the City's aged WWTP. The proposed WWTP upgrades will include new Influent Pump Station, Headworks, Grit Removal, Primary Clarification, Aeration Basin, Secondary Clarification, Sludge Digester, Screw Press, Standby Generator and UV disinfection. Due to the significant improvements to the existing WWTP, the design team proposed that a more modern name would reflect the current design and the Sweet Home community.

Staff began conversations suggesting we change the name to reflect our current Mayor's family name. John Mahler served on our City Council from 1973 to 1978. He was a councilor during the construction of the current WWTP, which is reflected by his name listed on the plaque in the operations building entryway. Mayor Greg Mahler first served on the Sweet Home City Council from November 1993 to December 1994. He returned to the Council in 2008 and was elected Mayor in 2017. Mayor Mahler has also volunteered with the Sweet Home Fire & Ambulance District since 1987. As Mayor, he has been the driving force for infrastructure improvements in Sweet Home for several years, explicitly pushing staff to complete a full upgrade of the City's WWTP.

The Challenge/Problem:

Should the City rename the WWTP?

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home City Council – Council has discretionary authority to decide when or how to honor the contributions of public servants via facility naming. Naming a City facility after a community member recognizes distinguished service for past efforts of community members.
- Sweet Home Residents – Facility naming reflects the efforts of community members.
- Sweet Home Staff – The facility name distinguishes our facility from others when staff interacts with regulatory agencies.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

None.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution honors the efforts of distinguished community volunteers.

Options:

1. Do Nothing. This leaves the facility's permitted name as Sweet Home STP in DEQ records.
2. Move to authorize the Mahler family to select the facility name from staff's list of recommendations.
3. Give other direction.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2, move to authorize the Mahler family to select the facility name from staff's list of recommendations.