

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023 AT 5:30 PM

Commission members present: Alders Bartz, Board, Smith, Wetzel, Comm'r Thompson
City employees present: Wastewater Treatment Manager Pete Hartz; Strategic Initiatives and Development Coordinator Mason Becker. City Attorney Steve Chesebro

1. CALL TO ORDER

5:43 pm

2. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

NONE

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Public Works minutes from November 14, 2023

Motion to approve Ald. Board

2nd Ald. Bartz

Carried by unanimous voice vote

4. BUSINESS

A. Review and take possible action: Dupont class action lawsuit settlement participation to establish eligibility for compensation from settlement funds

Currently drinking water tests show that the city of Watertown's treated drinking water is safe and has zero detects for 29 different PFAS / PFOS chemical parameters, which were required to be tested for under the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule #5 in 2023. However, the future of the water quality related to PFAS / PFOS is unknown. Joining in this settlement impacts Watertown's future rights regarding the unknown and possible contamination from PFAS / PFOS. This settlement provides public water systems with access to funding that can transform their infrastructure by establishing and maintaining state-of-the-art water treatment facilities equipped with advanced technology for effectively removing PFAS / PFOS. This settlement coincides with a shifting regulatory landscape and the likely adoption of new, enforceable standards for PFAS content in drinking water, including the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed maximum contaminant levels for PFOA / PFOS; if the public water system opts out it will receive no funds to pay for compliance efforts and obligations, but would preserve legal rights for future claims.

Both Hartz and Chesebro concurred that the best option for the City is to opt. Into the lawsuit.

This lawsuit is nationwide

Motion by Ald. Board to opt. into a class action lawsuit with Dupont to establish eligibility for compensation from settlement funds

2nd Ald. Bartz

Carried by unanimous voice vote

B. Review and take possible action: 3M class action lawsuit settlement participation to establish eligibility for compensation from settlement funds

Can insert paragraph 4.A. "Currently...claims" can be inserted here as it is a duplicate.

Motion by Ald. Board to opt. into a class action lawsuit with 3M to establish eligibility for compensation from settlement funds

2nd Comm'r Thompson

Carried by unanimous voice vote

C. Review: Downtown River Corridor Opportunity Analysis RFP

Mason Becker appeared before the Plan Commission seeking ideas and thoughts and appeared before the Public Works Commission for the same.

Smith asked what the expected cost to the RDA for the study. Becker \$20-50k. Smith asked if the RDA has the funding. Becker stated that there is money available in the RDA and that the study could be completed in 2024 and that the project should be completed in 9 months.

Smith suggested partnerships along the corridor between public and private sector

Unsure of the scope of the study, but Smith spoke of the misuse of land south of the Milwaukee Street bridge. Board asked that design standards be given to the developers in the corridor and broadening the scope along the entire commercial face of the Rock River i.e. former Shopko/Pic n Save, east side of river from the former Pizza Hut property south.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at Ald. Bartz at 6:39 pm

2nd Ald. Board

Carried by unanimous voice vote

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wetzel

Public Works Commission Chair

Note: These minutes are uncorrected and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.