



City of Willard
WATER ADVISORY BOARD
July 23, 2025

Members Present: Bryan Chapman, Kelly Davis, Kem Reed, Angie Wilson. (Absent: Scott Long)

Others Present: Wes Young, Rebecca Hansen, Trevor Hoffman, JR Robinson

Upon motion by Kelly Davis, seconded by Angie Wilson, the committee voted unanimously to approve minutes from the June 4, 2025, meeting.

Citizen Input: None.

Viking Tanks Presentation:

Matt Schultz of Viking Tanks presented his findings from examining Willard's water towers. He explained he saw issues with cell phone attachments on the rails of the tanks and witnessed steel loss inside the tanks.

Schultz stated the water tower by Willard High School was sprayed with acrylic paint and so would have to be repainted with acrylic, even though acrylic does not last as long as modern paints. The Meadows water tank has multiple coats of paint and some mold and mildew. The three tanks each have different problems. Schultz stated he witnessed an open air gap at the top of Meadows tower. He recommended installing steel to close the gap. He also stated the Meadows tank will be the most costly to maintain.

Schultz explained the maintenance program that Viking Tanks offers, in which they inspect and touch up paint once a year, with a three- to four-year washout rotation.

Kem Reed asked about inspections of tanks. Schultz stated the City can hire third-party inspectors, and that they use Trello to monitor coatings during installation, at an added cost.

Reed stated he noticed at the Meadows water tower there was no cathodic protection in place. Schultz responded that modern coatings are higher in solids and do not need cathodic protection.

City Administrator Wes Young stated the city will go out for bids this year for repainting at least one water tower and will seek input from the Water Advisory Board.

Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission Presentation:

Wes Young introduced Roddy Rogers, Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission, and stated the Board of Aldermen is deciding whether to commit to joint water storage space in Stockton Lake for future water supply. He explained the City of Willard is considering "option 1," which would cost the city \$26,638 per year for 30 years. This would

CITY OF WILLARD, MISSOURI

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secure a storage space of 1,195 acre feet in Stockton Lake, available to Willard if needed. Transmission and treatment infrastructure is not included in this cost. It is possible that Missouri Dept of Natural Resources might subsidize some of the cost to reduce annual payments.

Rogers explained that the Army Corps of Engineers approved allocation of Stockton in January 2025. He stated he has presented this information to the Board of Aldermen four times, and the Army Corps of Engineers has presented once.

Following Rogers' presentation, the board discussed the financial implications and the need for securing Willard's future water supply. Upon a motion by Kelly Davis, seconded by Bryan Chapman, the board voted unanimously to prepare a statement for the Board of Aldermen indicating its strong support of the City of Willard entering into a contract with the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission at approximately \$26,638 per year for 30 years to secure Willard's future water supply.

Overview of System—Equipment Issues and Priorities:

Utility Supervisor JR Robinson explained the measures the City is taking to mitigate I&I (Inflow and Infiltration), which is largely caused by root intrusion, sump pumps, and laterals draining into the sewer system. JR explained B Lift Station is undersized and runs 24 hours a day. He stated the solution to I&I is bigger pumps. The sewer team recently discovered a big rock had punched through a PVC sewer pipe that was not bedded correctly. They repaired that pipe, reducing a significant source of I&I.

Young stated the City plans to upgrade B lift station.

Trevor Hoffman, Director of Public Works, estimates the Meadows water tower would cost \$700,000 to bring it to code. He stated they plan to remove the water tower at Jackson St and Kime and replace it with a well in the future.

Hoffman explained the system has inadequate and aging valves. They will add insert valves 4-5 per year over the next 5 years.

Hoffman also explained galvanized lines are a huge issue, as well as water meter leaks in older meters. Reed pointed out that water meter leaks favor the customer, not the city, because they under-count the customer's usage.

Upon motion to adjourn by Davis, seconded by Chapman, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:00pm.