



CITY MANAGER UPDATE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

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From the Manager

PFAS & Water Treatment Plant Update: The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is going to give a presentation on PFAS to the Senate on Tuesday and they have asked for an update from Eau Claire to be included. Cole Cloutier has provided the following update. Thank you to Cole, Ben Spanel, Lane Berg, and all others who have been working to tackle PFAS remediation!

The City of Eau Claire has worked hard to keep PFAS levels as low as possible in the drinking water and is now working toward a solution that can achieve non-detect levels. Using a combination of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funding and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding coupled with low-interest loans from the State of Wisconsin-DNR, the City will install a PFAS removal facility, adjacent to the existing Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Employees from Ayres Associates have been surveying the plant property in preparation for the design of the facility. Once the survey is complete, Gannett Fleming will begin the design of the PFAS removal addition. The Department of Natural Resources has provided approval of the proposed pilot testing project for the selection of PFAS removal media. The pilot project is expected to be up and running at the beginning of February. The pilot project will test four different types of media from the Calgon Carbon Corporation for PFAS removal, including different types of granular activated carbon (GAC) and ion exchange medias. A second pilot test using media from Evoqua Water Technologies will be performed. By conducting two pilot projects it will allow the City and Gannett Fleming to select the very best media for PFAS removal. The pilot projects are expected to last between two to four months. After the pilot projects are complete and the data is analyzed, the PFAS removal media will be selected, and Gannett Fleming will complete the final design of the WTP addition. Bidding and construction commencement of the project is expected to happen in early 2024.

Eau Claire has proactively and voluntarily sampled for PFAS since 2020. Starting in 2021, the City has worked collaboratively with the DNR to closely monitor PFAS levels and work toward a goal of PFAS elimination. The DNR has an Enforcement Standard of 70 parts per trillion (PPT) for PFOA and PFOS

combined. Since 2020, the City of Eau Claire has had an average combined level of 5.77 PPT, well below the DNR standard. Much time and effort have gone into dealing with PFAS and a list of expenses incurred thus far along with an estimate for future expenses are shown below.

- Accrued expenses: \$1,506,952
 - Includes Laboratory testing, wages, contractual services, chemical increase, pilot testing and plant modifications.
- Contract for treatment Design: \$ 767,500
 - This is for cost for design and engineering of the PFAS treatment facility
- Project cost estimation: \$24,000,000
 - Estimated construction cost for PFAS removal facility

American Phoenix: Here's an update on the City and Health Department's response to complaints related to odor and noise related to American Phoenix's industrial operations...

The Health Department is involved in performing complaint-based noise and noxious odor investigations. During these investigations, we work with the City Code Compliance Office whenever a concern is verified. We have conducted multiple complaint-based noise and odor investigations in the vicinity of American Phoenix since mid-summer.

During these investigations, Health Department staff verified varying degrees of the expressed odor concerns on multiple occasions. The most notable odors occurred during WDNR mandated emissions testing, during which the operations running was at full capacity for the purposes of the testing. It is our understanding that this period wasn't representative of normal operations, and the odor situation improved following the completion of that testing, but was not eliminated. We are currently awaiting a report from the WDNR summarizing the testing and the agency's next steps. This information is needed to determine what additional consultation/action may be necessary at the local level. The Health Department expected that we would have the WDNR report several weeks ago. This past Monday, the Health Department received a copy of the testing results, but has not heard anything from DNR concerning their assessment of the testing or subsequent steps in the enforcement process.

In regards to noise, American Phoenix does project persistent industrial noise from the south end of the building. The noise is more evident along Galloway St. and usually still noticeable on the south side of the Eau Claire River. However, daily environmental factors and the daily operations impact noise. The Health Department staff have noticed that the sound appears worse on days when the doors are open which could mean at least part of the industrial noise is coming from equipment in the building. In most investigations, we often have to filter out other noises (traffic, construction noise, etc.) that clearly correlated with the highest readings. In an attempt to assess peak noise disturbance, the Health Department conducted an evening noise investigation in October during what we felt were favorable weather conditions for the assessment (chilly weather with moderate NE wind). The doors were open during this assessment and the evening investigation helped reduce the influence of other noises. The

point-in-time decibel readings were up to 60 dB recorded near the intersection of Talmadge St. and Grand Ave. This was the only assessment that documented readings at this higher level.

The City, including Code Enforcement and the Law Department, and staff from City-County Health Department, will meet with American Phoenix to review complaints and the odor and noise data collected. Similar meetings have occurred in the past in situations when some of our heavier industrial companies are near residential neighbors.

Trash Complaints: City Council Members and the City Managers' Office continue to receive trash complaints from constituents, including late service, no-service, misplacement of bins, and lack of responsiveness from haulers. Please note that we are working to determine what legal tools we have to increase compliance of trash collection companies with local ordinances and/or to explore other models of increasing trash compliance, if needed. Pictured here is a picture that a constituent sent showing her trash bins left open, which resulted in snow collected in the bins.



Library Tough Topics Series: Please mark your calendars – the Library's [2023 schedule](#) for Tough Topics discussions is now available. The first discussion is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22nd. We will be discussing John E. Kinville's *The Grey Eagles of Chippewa Falls*. Mr. Kinville is a local historian who teaches American Government and Sociology at Chippewa Falls Senior High School. We hope you will be able to join the Library's. To register for the event, please click the Register Here link on the Tough Topics landing page, or visit our [Events Calendar](#) which will provide a bit more information.

Updates from Utilities: Here are a few updates from the Utilities Division...

- **Waste Water Treatment Plant:** With the hard work of lab techs and operators, the operation of the WWTP is slowly coming back to normal. Preparations are being made for an update to the WWTP Facilities Plan, which was last updated in 2007.
- **Distribution/Customer Service:** Lead service lines continue to be replaced as the weather and ground frost permits. Annual inventory of water supplies and meters has started. A water main break was repaired on the 2200 block of Altoona Ave.

- Sewer Collection: With warmer than usual weather and unusual precipitation patterns, crews have been making sure storm outfalls remain open.

Updates from Fleet: And here are a few updates from the Fleet Division...

- Tough Year on Equipment: Fleet staff have been working tirelessly to get trucks back in working order. The weather this year has been tough on equipment but the shop is doing great with keeping up.
- New Tandem Axle Trucks: We received two new tandem axle truck chassis last week. These will be replacing two trucks in our current fleet for the Streets division. Near the end of February, they will go to the body manufacturer to be completed.
- Fleet Replacement: We are working with all divisions on the current year fleet replacement. This allows the divisions to voice their needs while aligning these with the budget.

Council Calendar (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Monday, February 13th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, February 14th: Council Meeting
 - Fiscal Stability Work Session #2:
 - Refinement of Community Values
 - Continued presentation of 2023 goals.
 - Boards, Committees, and Commissions Work Session
- Monday, February 27th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, February 28th: Council Meeting
- Monday, March 13th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, March 14th: Council Meeting
 - Closed session: Manager Annual Evaluation
- Monday, March 27: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, March 28th: Council Meeting
- Monday, April 10th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
- Tuesday, April 11th: Council Meeting
 - Last meeting for President Weld

Additional Dates:

- Friday, February 17th: Eggs and Issues – State of the City
- Wednesday, February 22nd: 29th Annual Chippewa Valley Rally

Employee Spotlight:

Here’s our next spotlight. (Give a shout-out to a City employee using this form: [Spotlight Form](#)).

Today we highlight **Abigail Jurrens!**

A coworker said this about Abi: “Abi has accomplished a great deal in her first year. She was instrumental in providing data to assist with the justification for the City to seek a referendum to increase public safety staffing. Abi continues to provide exceptional assistance to our agency and to the many stakeholders we collaborate with.”



- **Your Position:** “I am the Eau Claire Police Department’s Crime Analyst, and have been for just over a year!”
- **What people may not know:** “I was a competitive swimmer most of my life, up until college - then played underwater hockey in college...but only for a year...it’s hard stuff!”
- **Favorite activities:** “Watching Michigan State basketball, hiking, camping, watching anything horror or true crime related, being a super cool Aunt to two nieces and two nephews, and volunteering for a local non-profit.”
- **Best part about working for the City:** “The appreciation and application of data-driven analyses, to not just law enforcement, but all City departments. The idea of its utilization can be intimidating because it is still so new to many fields, so the fact that Eau Claire has been so open to it is impressive”

One More Pictures: Here’s a picture from the recent Council meeting from the Transit Equity Day proclamation.

