

City Council Meeting Date: January 7, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Ben Martig, City Administrator

Subject: Councilmember Dahlen Resolution

Action Requested:

None.

Summary Report:

Councilmember Dahlen requested the attached Resolution be provided to the City Council. Consideration of the water treatment bid item is scheduled for January 21st. Staff is reviewing the resolution to update for formatting and will be working with Councilor Dahlen on determining any draft edits if appropriate in advance of the next regular meeting. Councilor Dahlen may provide additional information under this Mayor and Councilor Report section of the agenda.

Alternative Options:

Not applicable.

Financial Impacts:

Not applicable.

Tentative Timelines:

Not applicable.

Resolution for a 6-month Moratorium to provide answers and weigh alternatives on the spending of 60M Dollars for the proposed Water Treatment Plant.

WHEREAS, the presence of Manganese in one well (of the 5 city wells) slightly exceeds the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidance, as of November 2024;

WHEREAS, the MDH guidance, and the rules & regulations from other Minnesota agencies or the comparable federal agencies do not mandate removal;

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield has spent considerable monies (approaching 10 Million Dollars) on this project, but the total cost of the proposed Water Treatment Plant is 60 Million Dollars;

WHEREAS, the removal of manganese is a complex and costly process that requires support from the community and acceptance by the community of the funding;

WHEREAS, the loss of federal funding for this project overlaps in time with the primary and general election, and three members of the Council have left their positions;

WHEREAS, a new Water Treatment will create a new water delivery system for the City and commit water users (Northfield residents & businesses) to a permanent increase in the cost of living and doing business in Northfield,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council shall institute a six-month (6-month) moratorium, and from the date of passage of this resolution to 6 months later, shall not consider any motion(s) or legislative action awarding contracts for the construction of the proposed Water Treatment Plant.