



Council Worksession
November 14, 2023
5:00 pm

Present: Councilmember Abdullahi Abdulle
Councilmember Graeme Allen
Councilmember Pam Axberg
Acting Mayor Emily Dunsworth

Absent: Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas

Staff in Attendance: Jen Lehmann, Gina Foschi, Craig Schlichting

Guests in Attendance:

2024-2043 Utility Rate Analysis Discussion

Foschi stated a 20-year analysis of the City's water, sewer, stormwater and street light enterprise operations and their respective capital improvement plans is completed annually. The focus of the analysis is to ensure the determination of revenues, expenses and cash flows is appropriate for operations, capital maintenance and replacement. The goals and assumptions within the analysis were reviewed in detail with the Council.

Schlichting discussed the proposed water capital infrastructure expenditures that were planned for the next 20 years. He commented on how City staff determines which water mains were in need of replacement and which were not. The sanitary sewer, stormwater and street light capital improvements were then discussed in further detail.

Councilmember Abdulle asked how long the paint would last on the City's water towers. Schlichting reported the paints typically lasted 20 to 25 years.

Foschi reviewed the proposed rate increases for 2024 for water, sanitary sewer and stormwater. She reviewed a comparison of the 2024 rates for average single family use against other cities rates. Staff commented further on the analysis that was completed for the City's utilities and requested comments or questions.

Councilmember Allen stated he was proud of the work the City has done to improve its stormwater system. He commented on how costs for utility services were spread across commercial and residential properties. He asked if Fridley would continue to receive excess water from New Brighton. Schlichting reported they would continue to receive excess water, noting Fridley was responsible for treating this water.

Councilmember Allen questioned if the City's projected numbers would change if the City were to renegotiate with the Army. Schlichting reported the City's projected numbers would not change. He explained the Army was only responsible for paying for the treatment facility and the removal of contaminants. He stated the Army would have to continue to pay for this, while the City pays for the distribution of the water.

Councilmember Abdulle stated because the City has to pump such a high level of water out of the ground, he believed it may be worth the City's time to actively seeking out entities that could use extra water instead of giving it to Fridley indefinitely. Schlichting stated this was a great idea and staff could look into this further.

Worksession adjourned at 5:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Terri Spangrud".

Terri Spangrud
City Clerk