

**CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021- 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00pm by Mayor Cedar in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 547 N. Carney Drive, St. Clair, Michigan, 48079 to discuss the Water Treatment System Improvement Study.

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Kindsvater, Klieman, Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney, Volz

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Thomas Fountain, Water Plant Lead Operator; Warren Rothe, City Superintendent; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk.

AUDIENCE: There were 5 people in attendance including Mike Boulier, St. Clair Township Supervisor and Bari Wrubel.

Water Plant Treatment Study- Superintendent Rothe introduced the meeting as a presentation of findings of the previously Council approved study of the Water Plant system. Mark Parsley and John Willemin, Fishbeck, distributed and presented a power point of the plan assessment. There were 6 issues identified from EGLE and 17 issues identified by current Water Plant personnel. Each issue was explained in terms of compliancy, necessity and benefits of improvements. Discussion included, but was not limited to, the possible system upgrade in regards to gallons per day (millions=mgd) operating system, alternatives to the current use of alum, current trends of PH levels, electrical upgrades, generator options, the current backwash system, redundancy needs, current water storage amounts and possible increase of water storage needs. Overall, the assessment confirmed the 43-years old plant is clean and well-maintained.

The initial estimate to update all 23 identified issued plus engineering costs is \$5.75 million. There is an additional cost to for plant capacity expansion at an estimated amount of \$3.3 million. The cost of a new plant would range from \$20-\$30 million. Several project funding alternatives were shared that include, but are not limited to, MI Clean water plan funds, loans, grants or bonds. There is the possibility that up to \$2 million of the total project cost could be forgiven as part of a loan forgiveness program. Superintendent Rothe stated there is precedence on the same (revolving water fund) and similar funding options (bonds) when previously used for Waste Water Treatment plant major improvements and St. Clair Township would contribute approximately 25% to the cost.

Construction would take approximately 1.5-2 years because the plant would remain in use during that time. Employees would need minimal training on any new equipment and systems.

Thom Fountain and Bari Wrubel spoke in support of implementing the recommended updates to avoid continually running the plant at capacity, to be prepared for increase in usage from expected residential and industrial projects and to be proactive in correcting possible EGLE compliancy issues in preparation of EGLE's projected upcoming enforcement of capital improvement projects. Next, additional required reports and review of funding options will be presented to council.

Public Comment- None

**ADJOURNMENT** at 8:16pm

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor