

City Council
Work Session
November 29, 2021
Future Water Survey
2090 Oakland Avenue – Public Works Building

Roll call indicated the following present: Mayor Ray Soliman, City Treasurer Glen Conklin, City Clerk Christine Vershay-Hall, Alderman Scott Dyke, Alderman John Vershay, Alderman Darrell Jefferson, Alderperson Tina Oberlin, Alderman Mark Cipiti, Alderman Nate Albert, Alderman Joe Kubal.

Also present were: Public Works Director Mark Siefert, City Engineer Ron Wiedeman, Assistant Public Works Director Blaine Kline, Administrative Assistant Ada Martino, Attorney Michael Bentschi, Chris Ulm (Strand & Associates), Corrina Mauss (Strand & Associates), Nathan Wisnionstes (Strand & Associates).

Mayor Soliman welcomed the public and gave a brief statement.

Public Works Director Mark Siefert welcomed everyone to the Public Works Building. He then introduced Chris Ulm from Strand & Associates. He explained how the information stations are set up and that the residents can go to them in groups of 4.

The informational stations were set up as follows:

- 1st Station – Current Source vs Alternative Sources
- 2nd Station – What is involved with switching Water Sources
- 3rd Station – How does this affect me?
- 4th Station – How does this effect my water bill

The City of Joliet is concerned that their wells will potentially run dry by 2030. The North-East section of Crest Hill is off limits for new well drilling due to wildlife concerns. There is not an urgent need to switch the water right now as it is currently a natural resource problem. At this time 5 of our 9 wells have P-fas in them. These contaminants are in small quantities in the current water supply. If necessary the City will need to treat the water to get the Pfas under the allowable level. Pfas has also been detected in Lake Michigan water. This would require bringing the water to one location, treating it, and sending it back out into the system for consumption. The other option would be for the City to add 2 treatment facilities of our own or get water from another location.

All the options presented show that the water will come through a trunk line that will run through Crest Hill whether we choose lake water or not.

Joliet decided in 2020 that they were potentially going to Lake Michigan water. There was 2 routes looked at to deliver the water. In January of 2021 they decided Lake Michigan water was the best way to go. By December 2022, all regions will need to decide if they are going to join the Regional Water Commission. It will be 2030 before water goes through the lines in the City of Crest for use. Residents will be able to remove water softeners if they so choose as they will no longer be necessary to soften the water. The cost impact for lake water will be spread out among residents depending on how many communities participate.

In regard to the effect this will have on water bills, we are currently on shallow aquifers. Any decision that we make will cause a cost increase. Lead and copper studies will need to be done.

Director Mark Siefert directed the residents to the various information stations. Each discussion would last 5-7 minutes.

The Mayor then asked for comments and questions from those who were in attendance.

Tom Brandt asked the Mayor when he found out there was P-fas in the water system. The Mayor stated we found out about the Pfas 4 months ago.

Scott Pointon asked If this plan progresses, and contracts begin will it be binding and what guarantee do we have that we will stay with the Commission if new Council members are elected in the future. Chris Ulm explained that the only way out of the Commission is if we are unable to obtain allocation, pay the invoice, or if Stateville closes.

Robert Brendol explained his bills at his old location have doubled. Since we currently control the rates why would the Council wants to give this up. He would vote to keep our current water system. Alderperson Oberlin commented that it is not just a financial decision, but the discovery of the Pfas was the icing on the cake for her to make the decision to change. She also is concerned about the rates but feels this is the right thing to do for the City. Mayor Soliman commented that one of these days our wells could go dry. The cost to treat the water will get costly but the Pfas was the game changer on going with Lake Michigan Water. The best interest of the City would be to join the commission now.

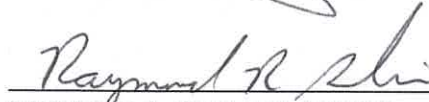
The Mayor asked if any Council members would like to make a comment. Alderman Scott Dyke commented that we have to look into this now, to secure the water supply for the future. Alderman John Vershay commented that when going to Lake Michigan water was first discussed, he was concerned about the fees, but he is positive that Lake Michigan water would be best for the City. Alderman Darrell Jefferson commented that he was concerned the water coming from 40-50 miles away would be costly. The Pfas was part of his decision for going with Lake Michigan water. Alderperson Tina Oberlin commented that she did research on Pfas. She encouraged everyone to research the dangers of Pfas. Alderman Mark Cipiti commented this is a huge decision that will affect everyone in the City. He feels the supply of the water could become a problem in the future along with the cost to remove the Pfas to make the water safe to drink. Alderman Nate Albert commented that the decision has not been completely made as of yet. The Pfas is a concern because we don't know what this will do to the human body. Alderman Joe Kubal commented that he agrees with everything that he has heard so far. The water supply is one of the largest concerns for everyone. We have access to the largest body of water so why would we not want to connect to it and have better water.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04p

Approved this 6th day of December, 2021
As presented ✓
As amended _____



CHRISTINE VERSHAY-HALL, CITY CLERK



RAYMOND R. SOLIMAN, MAYOR