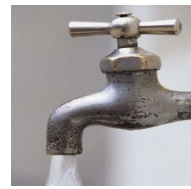


City Water Update:



Status: State of Emergency

Update:

An Ad hoc committee was formed to work on the state of our water infrastructure. The committee is comprised of two City Council members along with concerned city residents and property owners. Anyone who has experience with grant seeking, grant writing, or are knowledgeable in plumbing / pipe installation and water rights are encouraged to join this committee.

The first task that must take place before regular summer time watering is a 10" pipe that was bypassed while fixing leaks earlier this summer. ***If that pipe does not get replaced before summer, the outside watering including lawns and gardens, car washing etc. will not be permitted.*** The next biggest leak scheduled for repair has been named the Van Daam leak; of which we received funding from the State Department of Water Resources to repair this leak. The City has requested this grant be extended to 6/30/2023 due to weather and that extension was granted.

The repair of the Van Dam leak is being scheduled for repair within the next few months, pending weather.

Meanwhile a couple of grants have been found to help fund the planning report, which is a requirement before we can apply to grant funding for the remaining repair and pipe replacement. The planning report cost will be upwards of \$100,000. We are hopeful the grants being written for the planning report will cover most of this cost. We can not apply for the main grant funding to help replace our infrastructure until we have the Planning Report in hand.

Grant funding will not cover all costs for infrastructure replacement and repair. Low interest loans, or property tax special assessments will most likely be part to replace close to 75% of our city water system.

Creating a long-term plan, we are hopeful to include more shut off locations, fire hydrants, completion of water meter installation, and another well on the south side of town. This will prevent water having to be shut off for the majority of the town to conduct repairs in the future. We are pulling together to find possible solutions to fix this serious dilemma.

Possible Solutions:

USDA Grant for rural water structures, with the possibility of matching funds.
USDA long term low interest loans, resulting in rate increases.
Grant for engineering costs application to be submitted as well.
Property Tax / Special Assessment

What to expect:

A definite increase in water/sewer charges

Possible disruption of water source, as well as street detours due to construction.

Next Meeting: 3/2/2023 Ad hoc Committee 5:30 PM / City Town Hall meeting 6:30 PM

Committee members: Sarah Jackson, Joy Markum, Johnathon Reeves, Joyce Cameron, Dori Gayner (representing as school Board member), Pat McCarthy, Wendy Church-Bergstrom, Wendy Jackson, Doug McCoy, William Mertton, Julie Herod, Carolyn Widman, and Kelly Champion, Mike Filippini.