

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Winger
January 20, 2016**

Council Members present:

Acting Mayor Dan Kindall
Nick Geray, Lori Lucken

Council Members absent:

Mayor Darrell Olson, Steve Massmann

Guests present:

Todd Johnson, Engineer, MN Dept of Health
Chris Thorson, Ulteig Engineers
Brian Hiles, Ulteig Engineers
Makar Egoroff
Anna Schliep, Arsenic Compliance Person, MN Dept of Health on speaker phone

Maintenance Personnel present:

Ron Locken

City Clerk/Treasurer present:

Jennifer Frohrip

The special meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Kindall at 6:37 p.m.

New Business:

Todd Johnson provided information for the Council:

- Well #1 was built in 1948.
- Well #2 was built in 1961 and is not being used because it is pumping sand.
- The arsenic #s have been jumping around since 2013.
- The City needs to get into compliance. A plan must be in place by the end of this year.
- Higher levels of arsenic in the drinking water is a problem due to long term exposure.
- The effect on public health is not a concern right now.

Chris Thorson discussed options:

- Look for another aquifer – would it have same problems?
- Use wells with a water treatment plant.
- A new well would not necessarily need a new well shed, just the treatment plant building.
- Existing system is pretty old.
- Treatment would reduce iron and arsenic levels.

Brian Hiles discussed funding:

- A SEARCH Grant would cover the up front costs when starting a project.
- There are also SWP competitive grants available (max. is \$10,000 plus the City's matching amount).
- To apply for any Public Facilities Authority money the City would need to get on their list. They prioritize the list but the arsenic levels should put Winger right at the top. Being on the list is not a commitment that the City would apply.
- DEED has small city development grants (up to \$600,000).
- USDA Rural Development probably has the most dollars available for larger projects.

Discussion:

\$100-125,000 per new well

\$1-1.5 million for water treatment plant (building would probably be 50' x 50')

Can do test wells

Finding location for new wells – city needs to own the land

Any well would have to have a direct feed to the water treatment plant.

Getting water from Erskine (8.5 miles) could cost \$2 million and Winger would lose control.

A feasibility study can be done.

Lori motioned to approve Ulteig to prepare application to USDA Rural Development for a SEARCH grant, Nick seconds, motion passes.

Old Business:

Lori motioned to approve the clerk cash out CD #12889 and purchase a new 1 year CD at the higher rate of 0.75% interest, Nick seconds, motion passes. If a CD of 1 year or less is cashed out early, the penalty for early withdrawal is the loss of 1 month's interest.

Adjourn:

Mayor Kindall adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Approved

Attest

Mayor

City Clerk