

**2G. Consideration of approving Resolution 2025-20 in support of constructing a Water Treatment Facility**

<b>Prepared by:</b> Public Works Director/City Engineer	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 03/10/2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Consent Agenda Item</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular Agenda Item</b>
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Finance Director	<b>Approved by:</b> City Administrator	

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-20 supporting construction of a Water Treatment Facility.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION**

- August 24, 2020:** Authorized WSB to complete a feasibility study for the installation of a water treatment facility.
- June 28, 2021:** Approved a resolution in support of construction of a Water Treatment Facility.
- December 11, 2023:** Authorized AE2S to provide engineering services for the construction of a water treatment plant at a cost of \$1,939,800.
- July 22, 2024:** Authorized Braun Intertec to provide geotechnical services for a cost of \$18,595.
- August 26, 2024:** Authorized the solicitation of a request for qualifications for a construction manager for the construction of a water treatment plant.

**REFERENCE AND BACKGROUND**

During a test of the City’s raw water manganese levels as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), elevated manganese levels were detected. While manganese levels are not currently regulated, the Minnesota Department of Health adopted recommended guidelines in 2018.

The City conducted a feasibility study to determine the best approach for water treatment, recommending the construction of a centralized facility to remove iron and manganese. The City was awarded \$11,000,000 in funding from the 2023 state bonding bill for this project.

MDH has reported that children and adults can develop long-term health problems when drinking water with elevated levels of manganese over an extended period of time. These

health issues include problems with memory, attention, and motor skills. Infants can also develop long-term learning and behavior problems.

Currently, there are options for residents to use home water treatment devices to reduce or remove manganese; however, constructing a water treatment plant would provide a community-wide option for removing both manganese and iron to comply with the health-based guidance developed by MDH. Initial estimates indicate the cost for constructing a water treatment facility would range between \$40-\$50 million.

To secure funding additional funding assistance, Representative Rarick and Senator Anderson have introduced a state bonding bill for \$10 million for the project. Staff proposes to continue to request additional funding from our federal elected officials for the Community Project Funding program. Federal FY 2026 Community Project Funding applications are currently being solicited, and a \$10 million request is proposed. The Federal Community Project Funding grants require a 20% local match.

The requested resolution formally acknowledges the City Council will allocate required matching funds for grants or other funding assistance. It also supports future staff efforts to compile funding applications by highlighting the Council's commitment to the project.

- I. **Budget Impact:** External funding support will reduce the impact on local rate payers to a more manageable level. A loan through the Public Facilities Authority is expected to be utilized for the required local match.
- II. **Staff Workload Impact:** N/A
- III. **Comprehensive Plan Impact:** N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff recommend approving a resolution in support of constructing a water treatment facility that can be used when applying for funds.

**SUPPORTING DATA**

- Resolution 2025-20

**CITY OF MONTICELLO  
WRIGHT COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

**WHEREAS**, The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recently tested the city's raw water manganese levels as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR).

**WHEREAS**, Testing revealed that all of the city's five municipal wells significantly exceed the maximum recommended manganese levels for infants, and four of the wells exceeded the recommended levels for children and adults.

**WHEREAS**, MDH has reported that those children and adults can develop long term health problems when drinking water with elevated levels of manganese over an extended period including problems with memory, attention, and motor skills. Infants can also develop long-term learning and behavior problems.

**WHEREAS**, After the completion of a feasibility study it was determined that the construction of a water treatment plant would be the best way to provide safe drinking water to the more than 14,000 residents of the City of Monticello.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MONTICELLO, MINNESOTA:**

1. That the City Council supports the construction of a water treatment plant and is committed to provide matching funds to complete the construction of the facility.

**ADOPTED BY** the City Council of Monticello, Minnesota this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

CITY OF MONTICELLO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lloyd Hilgart, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Schreiber, City Clerk