

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 – 6:30 PM
COLUMBUS CITY HALL
AGENDA**

Topic: Common Council/COW Regular Meeting
Log In Time: Mar 2, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89690708095?pwd=aFc4a3JpeDV5TTZDS1RIYXc2U2I4QT09>
Meeting ID: 896 9070 8095
Passcode: 835690
312 626 6799 US

1. Roll Call
2. Notice of Open Meeting
3. Approve Agenda
4. Citizen Comments
 - ***Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, City staff continue to minimize attendance at the Council meetings in City Hall until further notice. Citizens wishing to make public comment at the meeting via Zoom, please email Pat Goebel at pgoebel@columbuswi.us by Noon March 2. In your email, please include: your name, address, and the Zoom profile name or phone number you will be calling from. Citizens not signed up to comment via Zoom by Noon March 2, may still comment by appearing in person at the meeting and signing up for public comment.***
5. Review & discuss Temporary Staffing at WWTP
6. Convene to closed session per § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.
7. Reconvene to open session
8. Adjourn

2021 AGENDA ITEM

Committee of the Whole Meeting date: February 15, 2021

Council Meeting date: March 2, 2021

ITEM: Wastewater Utility Staffing Update

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

With the retirement of John Nehmer, and the subsequent resignation of an experienced Operator, the staffing of the treatment facility needs to be addressed on an interim basis while the recruitment for the two vacant positions is underway. The DNR engineer recently notified the City that even with temporary staffing and emergency certification efforts currently underway, the City must still have an experienced “Operator In Charge” to oversee the operation of the plant. This oversight can be conducted over the course of one or more days, depending on the experience of existing staff and how well they know the required tasks. Interim solutions may include contracting with a private company, temporarily hiring a certified individual with the required certifications, or by partnering with another municipality to share staff on a short-term basis. Staff have had discussions with private companies, as well as local municipalities, but we do not have a defined solution at this moment.

Fortunately, John Nehmer was scheduled to remain on payroll for the next several weeks leading up to his planned retirement. John has agreed to work some limited part-time hours for a few weeks as the OIC while we develop a solid solution. I anticipate we will need to have a solution in place in early-mid March. Based on the need to meet DNR standards and the quick turnaround needed, staff would like to bring a proposed solution to the Regular Council meeting on March 2, 2021.

LIST ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED:

ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL: