

City of Brookings Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:00 PM Virtual

Sustainability Council Members: ~~Darcy Green, Brianna Kratz, Ben Vukovich~~, Albert Patin, ~~Norma Nusz-Chandler~~, Robin Buterbaugh, Jennifer McLaughlin, Betty L Beer, Louis Hesler, Emily Abele, and SDSU Student Representative-VACANT. City Staff: Jacob Meshke, Assistant City Manager.
Guests: Eric Witt, Lawrence Novotony

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the Agenda: E. Abele move, A. Patin Second

3. Approval of the Minutes: Motion R. Buterbaugh, A. Patin Second

4. Open Forum

Announcements: (also sent by email) for electric car event, and another local event

5. Water and Wastewater Systems, Brookings Municipal Utilities

Eric Witt: Engineering manager for BMU.

- Treated water from east well field (4 wells) and on well field on north side of town (5 active wells).
- Lime softening water treatment plant (Class 3 plant).
- Moved to monochloramine (chlorine with ammonia) recently instead of free chlorine to decrease disinfectant byproducts, and lasts longer in systems.
- New water tower on 4th street; 6th street tower will be taken down once cellular antennae can be moved.
- Water project coming: New water plant going in on north east across from Bel Brands.
- Well field on north end of town will continue to stay in service, but will eliminate water plant
- New lead and copper regulations coming in 2024. Service lines (from mains into residences) only around 45 lead lines left. Looking for grant to switch out any lead service lines
- With drought this year, have seen a little less reserve in our aquifers.
- Water restrictions this summer have been in place for lawn watering; some pushback from residents and lawn irrigation system.
- There is a drive by program for seeing water use monthly – eventually moving to no longer drive by and be on a more frequent monitoring.
- There is a premium on water use 3x above basic domestic use (2x price) – assumes is lawn watering.
- Wastewater treatment plant is south of town. Class 4 Mechanical plant built in 1980 with recent update finishing 2015. Nitrifying treatment plant. Use activated sludge to break down organic waste. Tertiary filtration, chlorination and dechlorinating. Discharges to Big Sioux River. Eventually will have to denitrify (Phase 2 of upgrade).
- Possible strategizing for decreasing water usage – less water dependent plants

6. Discussion and Action on Mayor's Awards Applications

- Friends of the Community Garden: Sustainability Leadership/Innovative Best Practices Award
- Parks and Recreation Department: Social/Quality of Life Award

- Move by B. Beer to award the above awards to the organizations above. A. Patin second. Aye: all, Opposed: None

7. City Update

- Growing Sustainability Conference cancelled.
- Rain garden at the city office coming along
- Fast charging stations through grant – will be rescinding that request. Electrify America is going to put in faster charging stations in South Dakota. Will be lobbying for getting one – expected in 2022.
- New city engineer has started
- Will be presenting city budget at next meeting.

8. IPCC Report Discussion

- Climate change is unequivocally human caused
- Climate change scale and breadth is immense
- Climate change will affect Brookings
- Quick action is imperative to mitigating damage
- What can we do?
 - Possibility of Vulnerability Assessment – E. Abele will check into expense

9. Updates/Reports from Subcommittees (abbreviated)

- Marketing and Communication
- Waste
- Energy – Looking into meeting with BMU before next meeting to look at timeline on solar array, and time of use.
- Local Foods

10. Updates from Liaisons

- Bicycle Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- CLEAR

11. Call for Future Agenda Items

12. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted: Emily Abele