CITY OF LA CROSSE

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LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL

File ID 25-1268

Caption AN ORDINANCE creating Sections 46-42 and 46-43 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding the creation of a Wellhead Protection district/s to ensure the long-term health of the City's drinking water supply.

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Water Department

Requestor of Legislation

Derek Greebon

Location, if applicable

The location would be the described area surrounding each existing well, and the area surrounding any future well sites

Summary/Purpose

The purpose of the ordinance is to protect the source water of the city around each well that is currently operating and create guidelines for the Utility in future citing of new municipal wells. This ordinance will also create boundaries of what can be developed within certain radius of the wells themselves. Each well will have a 400 ft restricted overlay that will allow parks, residential housing and other minimally impactful development. The second boundary will extend from the 400ft radius and extend to the 1,200ft radius. This part of the overlay district will be less restrictive as described in the ordinance but will limit some heavy industry and other business types from developing in these overlay districts, i.e., gas stations, dry cleaners, chemical manufacturers, sludge pits, etc...

Background

The Utility needs to drill a new well in order to continue to meet the demands of the city and maintain safe drinking water. However, the Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP) requirements were added to the Safe Drinking Water act in 1986. The program dictates that a Water Utility must have a Wellhead Protection Program in place to drill new wells. The last well (Well 26) was installed and went online at the same time as the establishment of the WHPP, thus the Utility was grandfathered in and did not have to develop the plan. Since that time, the Utility/City has attempted to develop a WHPP but nothing was ever put into place. The earliest record was the mid 90 ' s when the Utility/City first attempted to develop the WHPP. Currently, the Utility/City needs ability to cite and place new wells but cannot do so until the adoption of the Wellhead Protection Plan Ordinance.

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation

The Water Utility recommends the Ordinance be adopted