

# CITY OF LA CROSSE UTILITIES

## WATER - SEWER - STORM

400 La Crosse St

La Crosse WI 54601-3396

Phone (608) 789-7536

Fax (608) 789-7592

[utilities@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:utilities@cityoflacrosse.org)

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Council Legislation Viewer**  
**From: Bernard Lenz - Utility Manager**  
**Date: 09/10/2019 (replaces 08/21/2019 version)**  
**Subject: WWTP Facility Plan and Sanitary Sewer Utility Rate Increase**

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The Sanitary Sewer Utility has been working on and planning for improvements at the WWTP for several years. These improvements have been driven by State mandates for enhanced phosphorus treatment, capacity needs related to bio-solids, timing (the facility plan is updated every 10 years), age of the plant, and the desire to add sustainability through methane to energy cogeneration with heat recovery/re-use.

A draft Facility Plan (that is based on the current service area) and draft Rate Study are completed. The next step is to implement the first phase of the rate increase to ensure the Utility is in sound financial shape to for State Clean Water Fund financing (File #19-1269). We also need to prepare a final Facility Plan. To do that, we need to confirm the sewer service area we should be planning for (File#19-1358). Our wholesale contracts with Onalaska, Campbell and Shelby all expire by the end of 2019. To date, we have been unable to negotiate long-term contract with these communities on terms that are acceptable to the City. In addition to confirming the appropriate sewer service area for planning, we also need to do preliminary engineering to ensure all needs to implement the recommendations in the draft Facility Plan are accounted for (File #19-1268).

The plan is to have a special Common Council meeting on September 18, 2019 where our engineering consulting firm Donohue and Associates will present the draft Facility Plan, the need to confirm the sewer service area planned for, and the work needed to make it a Final Facility Plan. Trilogy Consulting LLC will present the Rate Study and phased in rate increase recommended in the plan.

Thus, the Utility is requesting a special Council Meeting on all three resolutions on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm. Resolutions 19-1268 and 19-1269 were referred out of the September 5<sup>th</sup> Finance and Personnel Committee to the special Common Council meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Resolution 19-1358 will be taken up at a special Finance and Personnel Committee meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, just prior to the special council meeting.

The surrounding communities have been invited to this special council meeting. I will be sending them a copy of Resolution 19-1358 and inviting them to come speak at the public hearings of the Finance and Personnel special meeting.

Thank You.