

# Moscow City Council



Regular Meeting  
~Minutes~

Laurie M. Hopkins  
City Clerk

[www.ci.moscow.id.us](http://www.ci.moscow.id.us)

208.883.7015

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Monday, February 2, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers  
206 E. Third St.

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**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Hailey Lewis, Bryce Blankenship, Drew Davis, Evan Holmes, Sandra Kelly, Sage McCetich, Scott Sumner

STAFF: Bill Belknap, Mia Bautista, Kyle Steele, Evan Timar, Tyler Palmer, Mike Ray, Megan Cherry, Justin Kilborn, Scott Bontrager, Laurie M. Hopkins

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 1. All Consent Items (ACTION ITEM)

#### A. Approval of Moscow City Council January 20, 2026 Minutes - Laurie M. Hopkins

#### B. Approval of Payment of Claims - Sarah Decker

#### C. Idaho Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program Application — Alisa Anderson / Karl Riedinger

The Idaho Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (Idaho EECEBG) provides competitive subawards to eligible cities and counties to promote energy efficiency, reduce costs, and support community growth, with funding managed by the Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR). The program is funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), offering federal grants to states and tribes for local projects, with a second round announced to continue investing in energy-saving initiatives. Previous funding supported retrofits in municipal facilities, with applications due by February 4, 2026, and projects completed by September 1, 2026, with a maximum cost of \$50,000 and no cost share required. The City staff is requesting approval to apply for a grant to purchase a \$45,000 Mean Green "EVO" electric zero-turn lawn mower, which offers up to 8 hours of continuous operation, significantly reduces fuel and oil consumption, operates quietly at 78-82 db, and enhances safety and efficiency for the Parks Department by allowing early morning mowing free from noise disruption. This item was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on January 20, 2026, and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Approve the application for an Idaho Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

#### D. Moscow Winterfest Alcohol Use Request in Entertainment District - Amanda Argona

The Moscow Chamber of Commerce + Visitor Center is hosting its annual Moscow Winterfest on Saturday, February 7, from 12 pm to 4 pm on Main Street between 3rd and 6th Streets. The applicant anticipates eight licensed beer and/or wine vendors and ten non-alcoholic and/or food vendors, along with a variety of outdoor games and activities for all ages. Warming fires may be provided at the

event at the determination of the Moscow Volunteer Fire Department. The event has been reviewed and approved as of November 17, 2025. Following standard operating procedures for events with alcohol that are within the Entertainment District boundaries, Moscow Winterfest is requesting a temporary suspension of the open container law by resolution. Per Moscow City Code, Title 10, Chapter 1, Section 1-12; a draft resolution was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on January 26, 2026 and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Approve the resolution allowing for the temporary suspension of the open container law within the event footprint of the Entertainment District for Moscow Winterfest for the duration of the event.

**E. Public Art at Moscow Police Department - Megan Cherry**

The Moscow Police Department, Arts staff, and the Moscow Arts Commission have developed a public art project concept to commemorate the 20th anniversary of an incident in Moscow, ID that greatly affected the lives of multiple law enforcement personnel and resulted in three civilian deaths as well as the loss of one officer's life. The sculptural artwork would be permanently installed in an alcove at the front of the MPD station at 155 Southview Ave. The installation would be complete in advance of the commemoration ceremony on May 19, 2027. Budgeted items include finalist honoraria, the artwork commission, lighting, and signage. The project is now set to move into the submission phase upon approval of the RFQ and artist agreements by City Council. The project is slated for an initial submission period from February - March 2026, with a goal of completing installation by the end of April 2027. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on January 26, 2026 and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Approve the RFQ and proposed installation.

**F. Membership and Mutual Aid Agreement to the Idaho Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (IDWARN) - Justin Kilborn**

IDWARN is a voluntary, statewide mutual aid network that allows water and wastewater utilities to request and provide personnel, equipment, and materials in response to emergency events such as natural disasters, major infrastructure failures, or other utility emergencies. The City of Moscow approved participation in the Idaho Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (IDWARN) in April 2011. IDWARN has recently renewed and updated its mutual aid agreement. The updated agreement formalizes the framework under which participating agencies may provide or request assistance and establishes the terms related to reimbursement, liability protections, and operational coordination. The renewed agreement has been reviewed by the City's legal counsel and was found to be sufficient, with no issues identified. Participation in IDWARN does not require payment of membership fees and does not obligate the City to respond to any request for assistance. The agreement preserves local control and allows the City to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether resources are available and appropriate to deploy. When the City provides assistance to another agency, the agreement allows for reimbursement of eligible costs, including personnel time, equipment use, and materials. The agreement also establishes legal and liability protections designed to support emergency response activities and reduce risk to participating agencies. Continued participation in IDWARN is consistent with the City's prior approvals, current emergency response practices, and standard best practices within the water and wastewater utility industry. Maintaining this agreement strengthens the City's ability to both request and provide support during emergency situations, improving overall system resilience. This was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on January 26, 2026 and recommended for approval.

**ACTION:** Authorize the renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement and continued membership in the Idaho Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (IDWARN).

Blankenship moved and Kelly seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **2. Public Comment (limit 15 minutes) - Members of the public are provided up to three minutes to address items that are not on tonight's agenda, or pending before the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Zoning Board of Adjustment**

Tym Park (Moscow) spoke on remarks by Dahlinger regarding purchasing bodycameras. He would like to know what happens to the data collected by the body cameras. They only give one point of view from the officers. He would like a response at a future meeting to know what will happen with the data.

### **3. Citizen Commission Report - Moscow Arts Commission - Megan Cherry / Sonja Foard**

Cherry introduced Sonya Fjord. Fjord provided the members and volunteer hours. The 2025 attendance has increased and so has the participation of artists and amount of artwork at the exhibits within City Hall. Palouse Plein Air also increased in artists and artwork. She outlined the vinyl wraps and public art. All events will take place again in 2026. Council members complimented the MAC.

### **4. Woodbury 1st Addition Final Replat and Final Major PUD Amendment (ACTION ITEM) - Mike Ray**

On July 21, 2025, City Council conducted a public hearing and approved the preliminary subdivision replat and preliminary Major Planned Unit Development (PUD) Amendment for Woodbury 1st Addition with one condition. On November 26, 2025, the applicant submitted the final subdivision replat and final Major PUD Amendment to be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. After reviewing and comparing the preliminary replat and preliminary Major PUD Amendment that was approved with the final replat and final Major PUD Amendment, it is Staff's determination that the proposal is substantially consistent with the application that provided preliminary approval. The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the final subdivision replat and final Major PUD Amendment at their meeting on January 14, 2026, and recommended approval to City Council with no conditions. This item was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on January 26, 2026, and recommended for approval.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Approve the Woodbury 1st Addition Final Replat and Final Major PUD Amendment; or approve the Woodbury 1st Addition Final Replat and Final Major PUD Amendment with conditions; or deny the Woodbury 1st Addition Final Replat and Final Major PUD Amendment; or provide staff further direction.

Sumner recused himself from the item. Ray introduced the item as written above. The final replat and final major PUD amendment include the same number of lots as the preliminary replat and preliminary major PUD amendment.

Staff recommendation is that the Council approve the final replat and final major PUD amendment with one condition: inclusion of a standard sidewalk constructed upon the northern Woodbury Drive Road section instead of the proposed concrete pavers. However, if the Council chooses to grant a deviation from the street standards and approve the concrete pavers, staff has two recommended conditions: that the pavers be installed upon a layer of concrete to prevent settling and that the developer enter into an agreement which requires the long-term maintenance of the pavers to be the responsibility of the developer.

In answer to Holmes questions, Ray said Woodbury and Slonaker are the only two public streets. The

other roads and the park as private and the responsibility of the home owners association.

Levi Wintz, developer, said he expects each addition constructed on a rolling schedule. They want to start on the neighborhood business. Total build out is estimated to take 15-20 years. As they are the developer, they will be the builder and not intending to sell lots to other home builders. They desire to maintain a cohesiveness of quality and design. He spoke on the absorption rate of housing and hope to build 20 homes a year if the market allows.

McCetich said there were concerns related to ADA compatibility and maintenance at the P&Z meeting. The public sidewalks will still meet ADA standards. The paver sidewalks would be similar to the downtown pebbled sidewalk. One of the important items to them is the neighborhood design and the pavers provide a more urban look.

Davis said the way the city is proposing for construction of the pavers eliminate most of his concerns regarding the pavers. He does wonder what the pavers will look like in 50 years and will there be allocation to fix those. Wintz responded it will be the responsibility of the HOA and there will be a maintenance budget. They will manage the HOA until 100% of houses sold.

Holmes said he prefers pavers as he can see it's a vital part of the design. He doesn't want to insist on concrete base since it's part of the HOA responsibility. Ray responded explaining the staff concern was regarding eventual settling of the pavers and in turn creating issues with ADA.

Mayor Lewis called a recess at 7:43 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Kelly moved to Approve the Woodbury 1st Addition Final Replat and Final Major PUD Amendment with one condition that a standard sidewalk be construction upon the northern Woodbury Drive road section instead of the proposed concrete pavers. Blankenship seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Two (Kelly, Blankenship). Nays: Three (Davis, McCetich, Holmes). Abstentions: None. Motion failed.

McCetich moved to approve the Woodbury 1<sup>st</sup> Addition Final Replat and Final Major PUD Amendment with the condition that the pavers shall be installed upon a layer of concrete to prevent settling and the developer shall enter into an agreement which requires the long-term maintenance of the pavers be the responsibility of the developer. Davis seconded. Holmes wanted to be clear that it was the developer and/or HOA. Belknap said this would become part of the development agreement that will come before Council. Kelly wanted to explain that she thinks long term is long term and more than 30 years which is why she didn't want the pavers. There is opportunity to disintegrate and get slick and may not have a HOA in the future.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Four (4). Nays: One (Kelly). Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**5. Task Order No. 27 Moscow Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) – Effluent Filtration, Dewatering System, and Disinfection System Improvements (ACTION ITEM) - Evan Timar**

Task Order No.27, pursuant to the Master Agreement for Professional Services between City of Moscow and J-U-B Engineers, consists of design phase and bidding services for the effluent filtration improvements, dewatering system improvements, and disinfection system scrubber replacement. The dewatering system and the gas scrubber are original pieces of equipment installed during the Phase II facility upgrades in 1996 and are now well beyond their intended service life. Each of these systems plays an essential role in keeping the facility operating safely and reliably. The effluent filtration system helps reduce the amount of phosphorus released into the receiving waters, protecting water quality and

meeting regulatory limits. The dewatering system removes water from residual solids so they can be handled and disposed of efficiently. The disinfection system scrubber is a critical safety system that treats air in the event of a chlorine or sulfur dioxide gas release, helping protect staff, the public, and the environment. Together, these systems support continuous, safe, and compliant plant operations. Implementing the upgrades recommended in the 2020 Water Reclamation Facility Plan will reduce operational risk, improve system reliability, and ensure the facility can continue to meet current and future regulatory requirements.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Approve the agreement in the amount of \$1,204,300.

Timar introduced the item as written above. See attached presentation. This is budgeted in the sewer capital. The entire process is anticipated to be completed fall of 2027 at the earliest.

Blankenship stated that the Administrative Committee reviewed the item and placed it on the regular agenda due to the cost. He noted the upgrades are necessary for the City to remain in compliance and avoid potential financial penalties.

Timar explained that staff have worked diligently to maintain the equipment; however, it is now in need of an overall upgrade. The project will be phased to ensure systems are not taken offline during implementation. He responded to Holmes that the sludge holding tanks may provide potential electrical cost savings. The entire facility is planned for rehabilitation over the next seven years as outlined in the capital plan.

In response to a question from Holmes regarding sewer rate changes, Belknap explained that a rate study is completed every five years and anticipates long-term capital improvements over a 20- to 30-year planning horizon. The rate study is informed by the comprehensive plans and the WRRF long-term facility plan, with anticipated improvements considered when setting rates to ensure the City can fund operations and contribute to future upgrades. He noted this project represents only a portion of the improvements needed over the next 10 to 20 years, with additional projects contemplated in the design agreement. Sewer rates have increased 2.25% over the past five years, and staff anticipate a similar rate of increase moving forward.

Davis pointed out the city is being good stewards and saving for future capital projects. Davis moved and Kelly seconded to approve the agreement in the amount of \$1,204,300. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

## **6. Comprehensive Water and Sewer System Plans Project (ACTION ITEM) - Tyler Palmer**

As part of the management of the City of Moscow's public water and sewer utilities, it is necessary to perform a periodic review of the existing Public Drinking Water and Sewer Conveyance Systems and to assess the system's needs to resolve existing issues and meet long term growth, rehabilitation, and capacity demands. The State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) requires Public Drinking Water and Sewer Systems to prepare and update their "System Facilities Plan" periodically. The most recent comprehensive plans were adopted and approved in 2011 (sewer) and 2012 (water). The City of Moscow entered into a professional services agreement (PSA) to update the City's Comprehensive Water and Sewer Conveyance System Plans with HDR Engineering, Inc. The PSA tasked HDR to provide a review of the existing systems, identify system inadequacies, and detail system improvements to resolve deficiencies and meet future growth needs. The updated Plans, before you today, will serve as the management and business plan for the water and sewer utilities covering policies, operations, water quality and supply, water rights, and system improvements. They provide a detailed utilities work plan for the next decade, identify long-term needs and opportunities, and outline strategies for utility management for the next 50 years. Following adoption by the council, the Plans

will be submitted to IDEQ for approval.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** Adopt the updated Comprehensive Water and Sewer System Plans.

Staff introduced the item noting the plans represent a multi-year planning process. The plans are a critical component of maintaining essential utility services that residents rely on every day. Staff emphasized that water and sewer systems require extensive long-term planning to ensure reliable operation, accommodate growth, and address system needs before failures occur. The comprehensive plans provide a holistic, long-term assessment of the City's water and sewer utilities, including system modeling, evaluation of growth patterns, identification of deficiencies, and planning for future capital improvements. The sewer plan was last updated in 2011 and the water plan in 2012. Updated plans are also required to remain eligible for certain grants and funding programs, including the State Revolving Loan Fund, and will be reviewed by the Department of Environmental Quality following Council adoption.

Jeff Hanson of HDR explained that the plans evaluate a 50-year planning horizon to ensure the City can continue to provide reliable water and sewer service. The plans identify system deficiencies, update the capital improvement program, and confirm compliance with state requirements. Water consumption has remained relatively stable over the past decade due to conservation efforts, with average annual usage of approximately 770 million gallons. Single-family residential use accounts for roughly 50% of total demand. The plans assume an average annual growth rate of approximately 1%, with growth primarily occurring on the periphery of the City. Water demand forecasts show gradual, linear growth over time. A key element of this plan is how the city manages its water resources. The city has a very active water conservation program with many different elements providing a positive impact on water use. The City's groundwater supplies are sufficient to meet needs over the 50-year planning horizon; however, the plans recognize the need to evaluate supplemental water sources in the longer term due to declining aquifer levels. In order to maintain for a long term beyond those 50 years, an additional sustainable water supply will be needed at some point to help mitigate the observed long term trend of declining aquifer levels. Over the decades, the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) has been evaluating options to address that long term supply. This plan discusses that dynamic and the fact that PBAC is currently focusing on evaluating the feasibility with the Clearwater River withdrawal to provide that surface water supplemental source. Hanson noted that the water system is generally performing well, with only limited areas experiencing lower pressure or fire flow capacity. Recommended improvements to address these issues are incorporated into the capital improvement program. The plan identifies approximately \$30 million in water system investments over the next 10 years, with additional improvements anticipated beyond that timeframe. In the near term, focus would be on upgrades to wells and well treatment, power upgrades and pipeline improvements. Into the future, focus would be newer storage facilities and pipeline improvements would continue.

In response to questions, staff explained that the City currently has approximately 4 to 4.5 million gallons of water storage, with a projected need for additional storage beginning around 2045 based on growth assumptions. Questions regarding non-revenue water were addressed, noting that losses remain within acceptable thresholds and can be influenced by weather conditions or system leaks.

Angela Taylor, Keller Associates, explained that the firm served as a subconsultant to HDR, focusing on the City's sewer conveyance system. She outlined the scope of work, which included data collection, system mapping, development of planning criteria, flow monitoring, system modeling, and preparation of a capital improvement plan to inform future rates. Taylor stated that flow monitoring was conducted over a six-week period to evaluate both dry and wet weather conditions and identify infiltration and inflow (I&I). Areas of elevated I&I were observed, particularly following storm events, indicating groundwater influence rather than increased customer usage. Lift station testing was also completed, with results showing the Mall Lift Station operating near capacity; she noted the City is already

proceeding with planned improvements to address this issue. Using HDR’s population projections of approximately 1% annual growth, Keller Associates modeled existing conditions and 10-, 20-, and 50-year planning horizons to identify system deficiencies and trigger points for improvements. The analysis identified priority upgrades to lift stations, trunk mains, and gravity sewer infrastructure, with recommendations phased over time. Taylor noted the plan includes recommendations to formalize an agreement with the University of Idaho regarding sewer service, address development-driven improvements near the University and Paradise Creek, and evaluate opportunities to replace lift stations with gravity systems where feasible. Like the water facility plan, the updated sewer facility plan is required by the Department of Environmental Quality, supports grant eligibility, and provides a long-term roadmap for sewer system improvements.

Palmer explained that the University of Idaho operates its own independent water and sewer collection systems, with its sewer flows discharging into the City’s collection system and ultimately the treatment facility. Historically, a mutually agreed-upon percentage of total flows has been used to represent the University’s contribution, which has guided its cost participation in the City’s system. There may be more accurate methods to measure actual flows and that a more formalized agreement would be preferable to the current informal arrangement. Preliminary discussions have occurred at the staff level as well as between the City and the University.

Blankenship moved to accept. SM seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**City Council and Mayor**

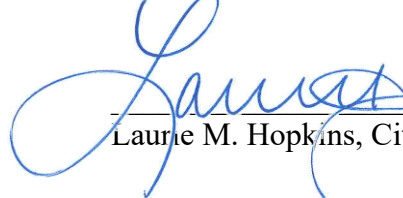
Reports were delayed until next meeting.

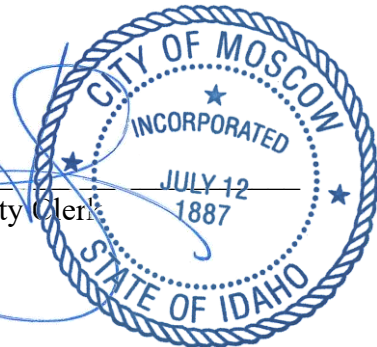
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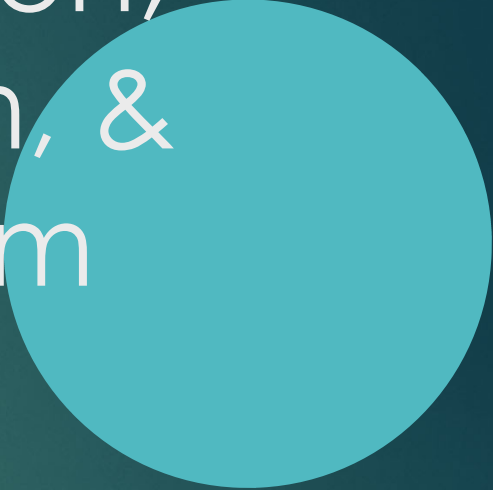

It was moved and mutually agreed upon to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

  
Hailey Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Laurie M. Hopkins, City Clerk





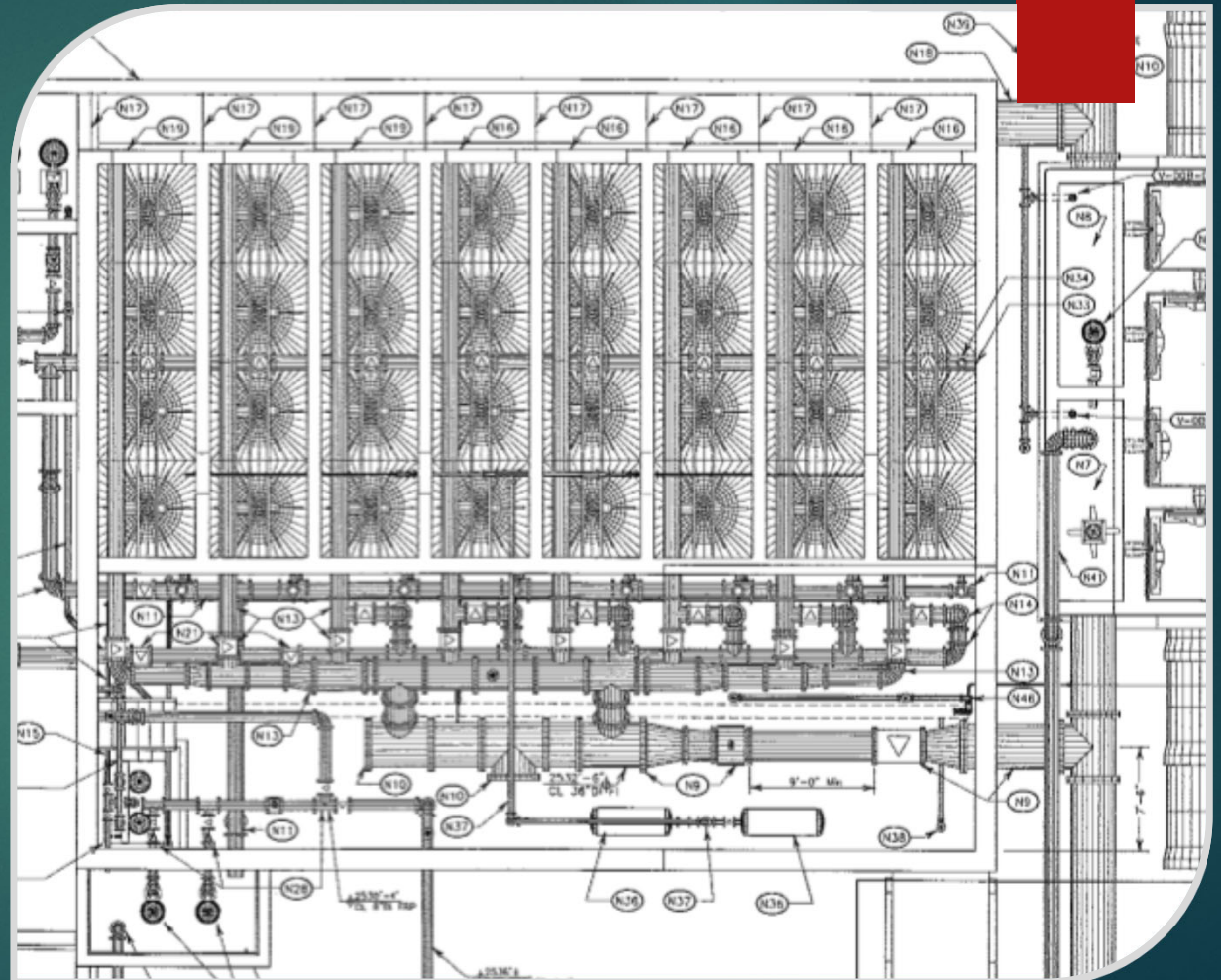
# WRF Effluent Filtration, Dewatering System, & Disinfection System Improvements

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

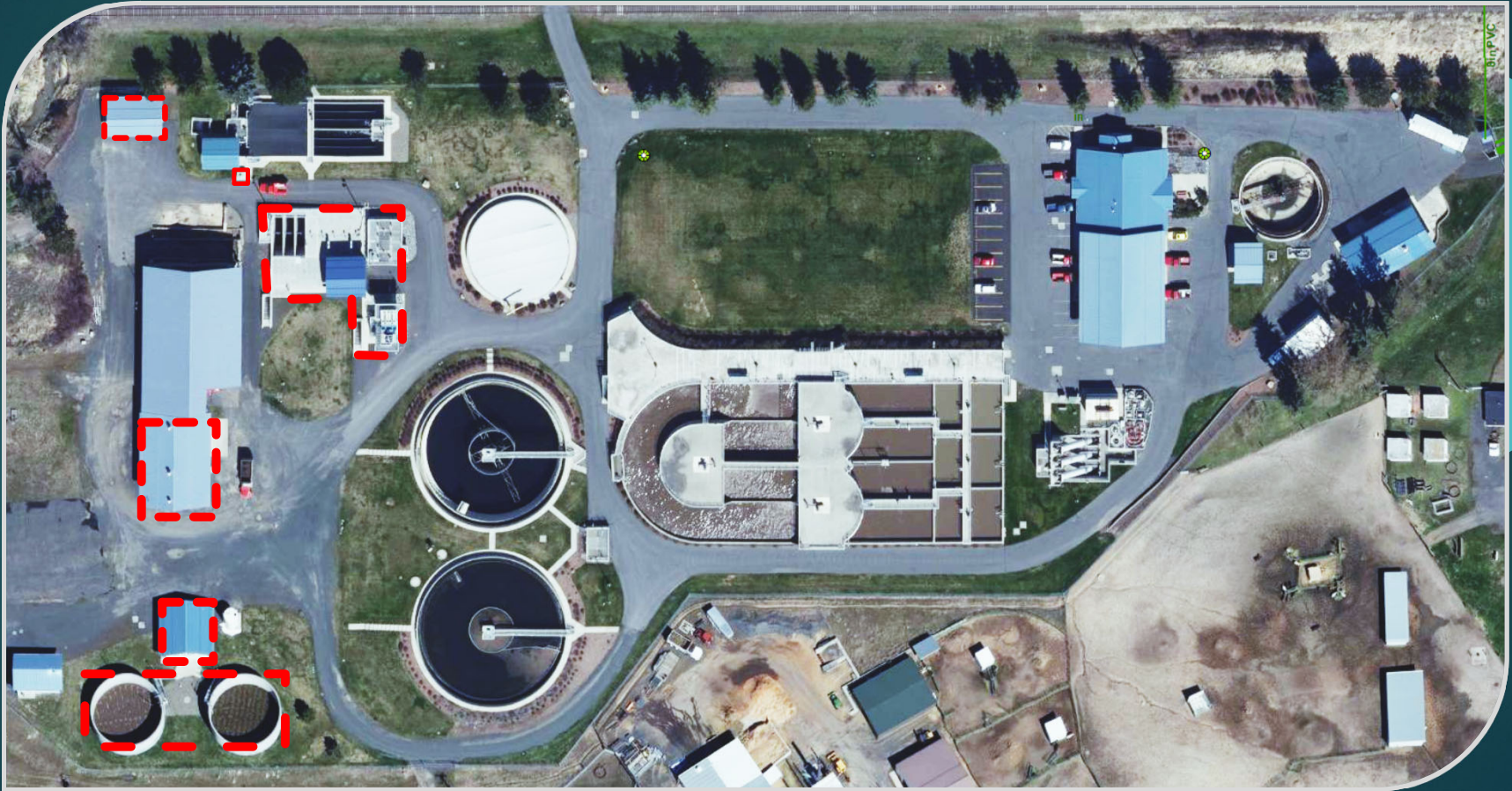
FEBRUARY 2, 2026

# Why This Project Is Needed

- ▶ Recommended in the 2022 Water Reclamation Facility Plan
- ▶ Addresses aging infrastructure nearing or exceeding 20 years of service
- ▶ Maintains regulatory compliance and operational reliability
- ▶ Positions the City for future growth and treatment requirements

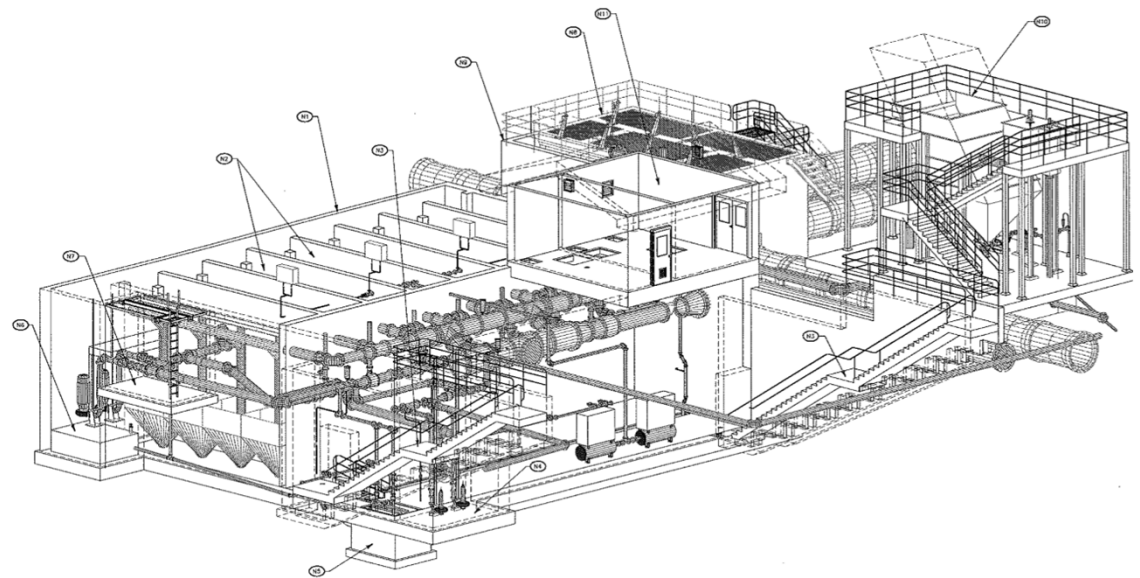


# Vicinity



# Effluent Filtration Overview

- Future Planning Evaluation
- Concept-level encloser
- Plate settler demolition
- Alum storage relocation





# Effluent Filtration

- ▶ Replacing in-kind support equipment
  - ▶ Valves and actuators
  - ▶ Compressors
  - ▶ Aluminum sulfate pumps
  - ▶ Turbidimeter relocation
  - ▶ Control system

# Overview

## Dewatering System

- ▶ Originally constructed in 1996
  - ▶ Belt Filter Presses
  - ▶ Conveyor
  - ▶ Polymer System
  - ▶ Plant Drain System
  - ▶ Biosolids Storage Blowers & Diffusers



# Dewatering System Improvements - Background

- ▶ Current Limitations
  - ▶ Two belt filter presses available but only one can operate at a time
  - ▶ Polymer system and drainage piping limit capacity



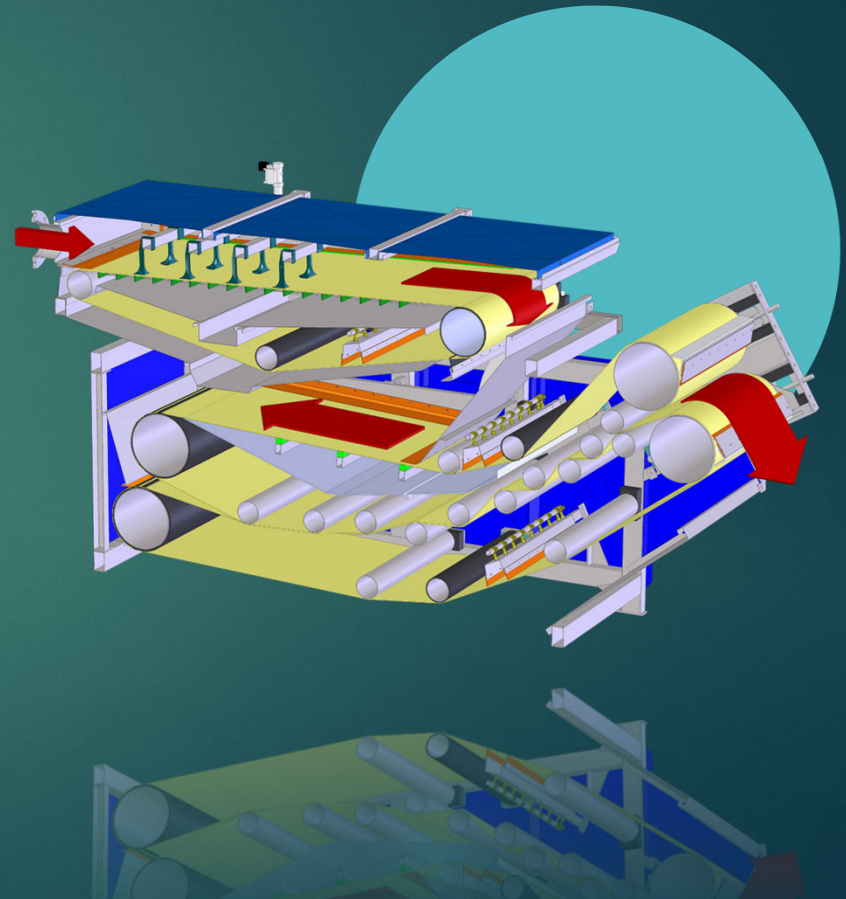
# Dewatering System Improvements - Scope

## Process Improvements

- Rehabilitate two belt filter presses
- Replace conveyor
- Replace polymer system to support dual-press operation
- Upgrade filtrate yard piping

## Supporting Systems

- Assess and replace plant drain pump station
- Replace grinders, blowers, diffusers, and sensors





# Disinfection System Scrubber Replacement

## Disinfection System Scrubber

- Originally constructed in 1996
- In-kind replacement of emergency scrubber
- Rehabilitation of concrete containment
- Installation of new electrical and control systems



# Benefits to the City

- ▶ Improved system reliability and operational flexibility
- ▶ Reduced risk of equipment failure and emergency repairs
- ▶ Continued regulatory compliance
- ▶ Cost-effective use of existing infrastructure

# Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends acceptance of the Agreement in the amount of \$1,204,300.00, or provide staff with further direction.

Questions?

