



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Council Session

Item I3

**#2008-161 - Consideration of Proposing a Ballot Measure to
Prohibit the Addition of Fluoride to the City Water System**

Staff Contact: Jeff Pederson

Council Agenda Memo

From: Jeff Pederson, City Administrator

Meeting: June 10, 2008

Subject: Proposing a Ballot Measure to Prohibit the Addition of Fluoride to the City Water System

Item #'s: I-3

Presenter(s): Jeff Pederson, City Administrator

Background

Nebraska State Statutes Section 71-3305 requires all cities with a population of one thousand or more to add fluoride to their city water systems by June 1, 2010. This statute also allows the voters of a city to vote to prohibit the addition of fluoride to the city water system either through a petitioned referendum or as a result of a vote following action by the Governing Body to place the issue on the ballot.

Discussion

Ballot language has been drafted as set forth in Resolution #2008-161 to allow for the voters of the City of Grand Island to vote on the issue of adopting or rejecting an ordinance to prohibit the addition of fluoride to the City water system. This issue, if approved by City Council, would be placed on the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Capital cost to install a fluoride system is estimated to be \$120,000. Placing the issue before the public on the November ballot would allow for the voters to make a determination on the issue prior to the time when the City would need to commit to the purchase of equipment to install the system in order to be compliant with the June, 2010 operation requirement.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve Resolution #2008-161 authorizing at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, the issue of whether the City of Grand Island should adopt or reject an ordinance to prohibit the addition of fluoride to the City water system be submitted to the qualified electors of the City.

Sample Motion

Move to approve Resolution #2008-161.

RESOLUTION 2008-161

WHEREAS, Section 71-3305 of the Nebraska Statutes requires any city with a population of one thousand or more to add fluoride to the city's water system; and

WHEREAS, Section 71-3305 allows the voters of a city to vote to adopt an ordinance before June 1, 2010, to prohibit the addition of fluoride to the city water system; and

WHEREAS, Section 71-3305 authorizes the governing body to place the ordinance to prohibit the addition of fluoride to the city water system on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, have determined that there is interest in determining whether fluoride should be added to the city's water system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

That at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008, the issue of whether the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, should adopt or reject an ordinance to prohibit the addition of fluoride to the City water system shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the City and to be presented in the following form:

Shall the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, adopt an ordinance to prohibit the addition of fluoride to the City's water system?

___ Yes (To prohibit fluoride from the water system)

___ No (Against the prohibition of fluoride from the water system)

Section 2. That the City Clerk is authorized and directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the election commissioner/county clerk at least fifty days prior to the election. The City agrees to reimburse the election commissioner/county clerk for the expenses of conducting the election, as required by law.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, June 10, 2008.

Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk