

**TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: January 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Water System Committee Recommendations
PRESENTER: Vice Mayor Jeff McKenna
ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Resolution

DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

As discussed during Town Council’s workshop on January 18, 2022, the Water System Committee (comprised of Vice Mayor Jeff McKenna and Councilmembers Andrew Nagle and John Chase) is proposing three recommendations concerning the Town’s water system. Those recommendations are summarized as follows:

- **Move ahead with deliberate speed on the water supply resiliency, redundancy, and safety improvements and pursue all reasonable funding sources including the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grants/loans.** These improvements include a new generator at the WTP, a new generator at the raw water intake, back wash pumps, a new high service pump station, a new clearwell, and conversion from chlorine gas to sodium hypochlorite. *Under a separate agenda item Town Council has been asked to adopted two resolutions that authorize the applications for the Spring 2022 grant/loan cycle of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the water supply resiliency items and for the expansion of the water treatment plant. Adoption of those resolutions is consistent with this recommendation.*
- **Engage in formal discussions with neighboring jurisdictions and other stakeholders to determine the feasibility of cooperative agreements that will allow a broader regional approach to the supply of water in and around the Town of Weaverville.** It is hoped that these conversations could be taken within the next 6 to 9 months.
- **Delay the Town’s Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project while the regional water discussions are taking place and the water supply resiliency improvements are being pursued. Consider carefully any water allocation requests for properties outside of Town limits during these regional conversations.**

In the event that Town Council would like to proceed with these recommendations, a proposed resolution is attached for Town Council’s consideration.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:

Town Council discussion and possible action concerning these recommendations.

**TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE
RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE TOWN'S WATER SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Town owns and operates a water system that includes a water treatment plant that was completed in 1997 and has a permitted design capacity which allows the withdrawal of up to 1.5 million gallons of raw water per day from the Ivy River;

WHEREAS, the plant is in need of some improvements in order to address water supply resiliency, redundancy, and safety concerns (“water supply resiliency improvements”), including the following; a new generator at the WTP, a new generator at the raw water intake, back wash pumps, a new high service pump station, a new clearwell, and conversion from chlorine gas to sodium hypochlorite; and

WHEREAS, preliminary engineering reports secured by the Town indicate that there will likely be a need to expand the water production capacity in the Town's water treatment plant in the next ten years in order to accommodate expected growth in the area;

WHEREAS, the Ivy River is a regional natural resource and there appears to be interest among the Town's neighboring jurisdictions and other stakeholders to have formal discussions concerning the feasibility of cooperative agreements that will allow a broader regional approach to the supply of water in and around the Town of Weaverville;

WHEREAS, while it is not prudent to delay the water supply resiliency improvements, there is sufficient current capacity in the water treatment plant to delay a decision on that project pending the outcomes of the regional water discussions;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Weaverville Town Council as follows:

1. The Mayor and Town Manager are directed to contact neighboring jurisdictions and stakeholders to gauge interest in participating in conversations concerning the feasibility of cooperative agreements that will allow a broader regional approach to the public supply of water in and around the Town of Weaverville. Governmental jurisdictions and stakeholders to invite to those conversations include, but are not limited to: Buncombe County, Marshall, Mars Hill, Madison County, Friends of the Ivy, Madison and Buncombe County Soil & Water Conservation District, Land-of-Sky Regional Council and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. Once interest is determined an interlocal regional water committee can be formed with representation from all interested parties.
2. Town Council action on the expansion of its Ivy River Water Treatment Plant is delayed while regional water discussions are occurring.
3. Town Council has agreed to approach water allocation requests pertaining to properties outside of the Town's limits very conservatively until a decision is made on the expansion of the water treatment plant and while regional water discussions are occurring.

4. Staff is directed to proceed with the water supply resiliency improvements by determining cost estimates, attempting to secure grant and/or loan financing for the improvements, developing a financing plan, and to proceed with all necessary engineering, permitting, and bidding, and all other tasks necessary to have these needed improvements under contract as soon as practicable.
5. The Mayor and staff are directed to provide regular updates to Town Council on the regional water conservation and the water supply resiliency improvements.

THIS the 24th day of January, 2022.

TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE

Patrick Fitzsimmons, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:

James Eller, Town Clerk