

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on **Tuesday, June 26, 2018** immediately following the City Council meeting which begins at **6:15** p.m. in the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers.

The following items will be considered:

1. Roll Call
2. Council President's Report
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Fluorine in the City Drinking Water
(*Councilor George*)
5. Adjournment

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AGENDA BILL

Ref: 079

COMMITTEE AGENDA: 5 (04-17-2018)
6 (05-29-2018)
4 (06-12-2018)
4 (06-26-2018)

COUNCIL AGENDA:

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Fluorine in the City Drinking Water

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Councilor George

DATE SUBMITTED: March 31, 2018

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:
A-Chapter 702, Ashland City Ordinances
B-Memo from Tina Sopiwnik, DMD, June 5, 2018
C-Memo from Jim Struck, Interim Public Works Director

RECOMMENDED MOTION: NA

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Councilor George has requested a discussion regarding the City's policy of adding fluorine to the drinking water. The City currently adds fluorine to the drinking water. If the Council desires to take action, an agenda bill will need to be written at a later date with the proposed action.

An online search regarding the benefits and risks of fluorination of water will produce numerous results that range from supporting the fluorination of water to opposing fluorination.

The American Dental Association (ADA) supports fluorination. The paragraph below is from the ADA. (https://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/advocating-for-the-public/fluoride-and-fluoridation?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI9O7RkrHz2QIVSJF-Ch3zzQaYEAAAYASAAEgIPC_D_BwE)

Fluoride in Water is Safe and It Works

More than 70 years of scientific research has consistently shown that an optimal level of fluoride in community water is safe and effective in preventing tooth decay by at least 25% in both children and adults. Simply by drinking water, Americans can benefit from fluoride's cavity protection whether they are at home, work or school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named community water fluoridation one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

The International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology opposes fluorination of drinking water. <https://iaomt.org/top-ten-reasons-oppose-water-fluoridation/>

The International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT) is a global network of dentists, health professionals, and scientists who research the biocompatibility of dental products, including the risks of mercury fillings, fluoride, root canals, and jawbone osteonecrosis. We are a non-profit organization and have been dedicated to our mission of protecting public health and the environment since we were founded in 1984.

Top Ten Reasons to Oppose Water Fluoridation

There are many reasons to oppose water fluoridation, including safety concerns and health risks.

Reason #1 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: Fluoridation is a violation of the individual's right to informed consent to medication. Within a community water supply, fluoride is being added to the water of everyone, even if some people do not want it and still others do not even know about the fluoride being added to the water or about its health risks. Informed consumer consent is needed for water fluoridation, especially because of the alarming lack of safety for this chemical and its health risks.

Reason #2 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: Fluoride is not an essential nutrient. Fluoride is not a required component for human growth and development. In fact, fluoride has been recognized as one of 12 industrial chemicals known to cause developmental neurotoxicity in human beings. Researchers have repeatedly challenged the alleged safety and effectiveness of fluoride.

Reason #3 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: Hundreds of research articles published over the past several decades have demonstrated potential harm to humans from fluoride at various levels of exposure, including levels currently deemed as safe. Fluoride is known to impact the cardiovascular, central nervous, digestive, endocrine, immune, integumentary, renal, respiratory, and skeletal systems, and exposure to fluoride has been linked to Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, infertility, and many other adverse health outcomes, including fluoride toxicity.

Reason #4 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: People are now exposed to fluoride from an array of sources. Since water fluoridation began in 1940s, an array of products containing fluoride have been introduced to the average consumer including water, dental products, pesticides, fluoride supplements, other prescription drugs, and many other sources. There is no current accurate estimate of just how much fluoride people are taking in from all of these sources. However, dental fluorosis is recognized as the first visible sign of fluoride toxicity. It is likewise a warning signal of the human health risks associated with fluoride exposure. According to 2010 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 23% of Americans aged 6-49 and 41% of children aged 12-15 exhibit fluorosis to some degree.

Reason #5 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: A "one dose fits all" level is unacceptable. Susceptible populations with low body weights, such as infants and children, and individuals who consume increased amounts of water, such as athletes, military personnel, outdoor laborers, and those with diabetes or kidney dysfunction, can be more intensely effected by fluoride. Additionally, fluoride is also known to impact each individual differently based on allergies, nutrient deficiencies, genetic factors, and other variables. Notably, a bottle-fed baby in a fluoridated area gets up to 200 times more fluoride than a breast-fed baby, resulting in an increased risk of dental fluorosis and other adverse effects.

Reason #6 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: There is not a wide-spread understanding about how fluoride interacts with other chemicals. This issue is crucial to understanding risks of artificial water fluoridation, as the multiple chemicals to which we are exposed to can produce distinct reactions and interactions. For example, the fluoride added to many water supplies attracts lead, which can be found in certain plumbing pipes. Likely because of this affinity for lead, fluoride has been linked to higher blood lead levels in children.

Reason #7 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: Does it even work to prevent tooth decay? The trend of decreased decayed, missing, and filled teeth over the past several decades has occurred both in countries with and without the systemic application of fluoridated water. This suggests that increased access to preventative hygiene services and more awareness of the detrimental effects of sugar are responsible for these improvements in dental health. Research has also documented decreases of tooth decay in communities that have discontinued water fluoridation. Even proponents of fluoride have suggested that fluoride primarily works to reduce tooth decay topically (i.e. scrubbing it directly onto to teeth with a toothbrush), as opposed to systemically (i.e. drinking or ingesting fluoride through water or other means).

Reason #8 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: Ethical questions have been raised in regard to the use of fluoride, especially because of fluoride's ties to the phosphate fertilizer and dental industries. Furthermore, researchers have reported difficulties with getting articles published that are critical of fluoride, and an urgent need for an appropriate application of the precautionary principle (i.e. first, do no harm) related to fluoride usage has emerged.

Reason #9 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: Fluoridation discriminates against those with low incomes. Research has indicated that fluoride does not aid in preventing pit and fissure decay (which is the most prevalent form of tooth decay in the U.S.) or in preventing baby bottle tooth decay (which is prevalent in poor communities). Also, research has suggested that in malnourished children and individuals of lower socio-economic status, fluoride can actually increase the risk of dental caries due to calcium depletion and other circumstances. Moreover, people on low incomes are least able to afford avoidance measures (reverse osmosis or bottled water) or medical and dental treatment for dental fluorosis and other fluoride-related ailments.

Reason #10 to Oppose Water Fluoridation: It also poses threats to animals (pets and wildlife), as well as the environment at large. Animals are exposed to fluoride in the environment through pollution of air, water, soil, and food. It is important to consider their overall fluoride exposure as a result of each of these sources. Harmful effects of fluoride, including species vulnerability, have been reported in an array of wild animals. Even domestic pets have been subjects of reports raising concerns about fluoride exposure, especially through their water and food.

At the May 29, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council determined more information regarding the cost to the City for adding fluorine to drinking water, and if there are alternatives for the Public Works to track water breaks beyond the fluorine in the water, was needed before rendering a decision. Ullman moved, Haas seconded a motion to table the item until the June 12, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

CHAPTER 702. INTRODUCTION OF FLUORINE INTO THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM.

702.01. Fluoridation ordered. Upon receiving the consent and approval of the State Board of Health and until further direction of the Council, the Water Department is hereby authorized and directed to provide the means and to proceed with the introduction of approximately one part of fluorine to every million parts of water being distributed in the water supply system of the City of Ashland.

702.02. Use of water facilities. Insofar as the facilities, equipment, plant and employees, subject to the jurisdiction of the Ashland Water Works Commission of the City of Ashland, may be needed and used in connection with this health program, they shall be so used as facilities and agents of and for the City of Ashland as a municipal corporation of the State of Wisconsin.

702.03. Cost. The cost of the materials, equipment and labor for such purpose shall be paid out of the Water Department Fund of the City of Ashland by the proper officers upon the presentation of itemized, verified claims therefor.

702.04. Reporting to Council. The Water Department is hereby directed to make periodic reports to the Council as to the status, cost and progress of such service and to seek the cooperation of educational and scientific institutions to conduct surveys and research as to the beneficial effect of this program on the citizens of this community.

ADOPTED: 702 (512) 7/20/1949

6/5/2018

To: Ashland City Council, Committee of the Whole

Re: Community Water Fluoridation (CWF)

Please accept this summary of information I plan to present to the committee July 12, 2018. I plan to bring additional handouts to demonstrate the highlighted points below.

Regards,

Tina Sopiwnik, DMD

NorthLakes Community Clinic

Wisconsin Statistics

55% of screened 3rd grade students have experienced tooth decay. 47% had at least one dental sealant. In Wisconsin, 15 % of adults ages 65-74 have lost all of their teeth, compared to 24% nationally. Kids in HeadStart in the Northern and Northeastern parts of the state are more likely to have a cavity. In 2008, 3rd grade students in the Northern Region had a cavity rate of 68% versus 53-55% in the other 4 public health regions in the state

*<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov>

Ashland County

Will review oral health statistics from the state oral health epidemiologist.

Fluoride Efficacy

In communities that initiated fluoridation, the decrease in childhood decay was almost 30% over a 3 to 12 year follow-up period.

*Truman BI, Gooch BF, Sulemana I, et al., and the Task Force on Community Preventive Services.

Reviews of evidence on interventions to reduce dental caries, oral and pharyngeal cancers, and sports related craniofacial injury. American Journal of Preventive Medicine 23 (2002, 1S): 1-84.

Socioeconomic Impact of CWF

In 2008 in Wisconsin, Kids eligible for free and reduced fee lunches were more likely to have a cavity (69% vs 46% who do not qualify) **<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov>

Economic perspective for CWF

For most cities, every \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs.

*Griffin S.O., Jones K, Tomar SL. An Economic Evaluation of Community Water Fluoridation. J Publ Health Dent 2001; 61 (2): 78-86.

City of Ashland

Memo



To: Mayor Deb Lewis, City Council Members

From: Jim Struck – Interim Director of Public Works

Date: 6 – 07 - 2018

Re: Addition of fluoride to City Water System

The Public Works Department has been in contact with officials at the Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Rural Water Association and Department of Health Services. We will be receiving information as well possible meet with party &/or parties within the next two weeks to assess this situation in depth and receive documentation or data that would be possibly available to the Council prior to the June 26th, 2018 Council Meeting.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jim Struck

Interim Director of Public Works

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