

**CITY OF GRAYVILLE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTIES OF WHITE AND EDWARDS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2022**

The City of Grayville City Council was called to order on Thursday, April 14, 2022 in conjunction with the City of Albion at 7:00 P.M., by Mayor Travis Thompson. The meeting was held at the Albion City Council Chambers located at 27 W. Elm St., Albion, IL with the following members present at roll call: Commissioners Jordan, Baldwin, Howell, and James. Also present for the meeting were, City Clerk JoEllen Seil, City Attorney Jay Walden, Albion Mayor Wes Harris, Albion Aldermen Chris Hodgson, Gary Mason, Quentin Speir, Don Rigg, Albion City Clerk Melissa Felling, Austin Ridgely with HLR Engineering, Lee Beckman with Milano-Grunloh, Albion Water Operator Marty Reid and Ron Cullison.

WATER FILTRATION PLANT: Mayor Wes Harris opened discussion saying the purpose of the meeting is to hopefully do a joint water filtration plant, investigate the feasibility and hopefully both communities can work out an agreement. He said Albion's back is against the wall in moving forward with this.

Austin Ridgely with HLR Engineering prepared a list of potential ideas for beginning the process. He said the first being Albion builds a plant with a yearly increase in the price of water to be tied to the consumer price index. He said all costs are tied to prevailing wage. Adding this gives price stability for bulk water purchase, requires suppliers to keep costs down, and if costs are less than the Consumers Price Index, producer benefits/purchaser pays extra. He said Jasper water uses this type of agreement to purchase water from Fairfield. He said with this idea, Albion would build the plant and Grayville would buy water with costs tied to the Consumers Price Index and agreeing on the development of the initial cost.

Ridgely said the second idea would be to form a Commission which is what was discussed with Mt. Carmel, Keensburg, Grayville and Albion a few years back. He said a rotating board of five (5) with three (3) from one community and (2) from the other would change each year. He said all entities would be treated the same. Ridgely said along with this concept, another idea is to form a cooperative with Grayville and Albion being the members. He said with the cooperative, prevailing wage would not be required. Finally, Ridgely said Albion could build the plant with Grayville purchasing water and the sale price of water is an agreed percentage over the cost of production. He said the agreed cost would be based on agreed expenses that are defined in a contract and is confirmed by a yearly independent audit. He said Grayville could potentially sell water to Crossville and also sell raw water to the plant.

Lee Beckman with Milano-Grunloh Engineers said he is familiar with Gateway water and the cooperatives work from a funding perspective. He said there are potentially more dollars from a regional approach.

Alderman Heather Borowiak arrived.

Lee Beckman said Albion and Grayville together can produce water cheaper than individually. He says there will be pros and cons either way.

Grayville Commissioner David Jordan said five years ago they were close to getting an agreement but authority was an issue and seems to be an issue again. He asked about the cooperative being managed together and liked the idea. He said it is foolish to build two water filtration plants.

Discussion followed concerning the cooperative idea and that theoretically they don't pay prevailing wage although they will have to pay a descent wage to get an operator to run the plant. Lee Beckman said from a cost perspective, one full-time equivalent would be all that is necessary and an automatic labor cost savings.

Grayville Commissioner Chris James said he would be in favor of a cooperative. Albion Alderman Don Rigg said he would be in favor of a cooperative.

Grayville City Attorney Jay Walden asked who is the employee and the engineers responded forming an Albion-Grayville Cooperative, the employee is would belong to the cooperative.

Lee Beckman said in all scenarios, the same funding opportunities exist.

It was further discussed in the cooperative, there would be an Albion line and a Grayville line while each community would still maintain their other lines.

Albion Alderman Gary Mason discussed the composition of the cooperative. Attorney Walden said he was a bit confused on how a cooperative made up of board members from each community is not a government entity. Lee Beckman asked that someone contact Taylor Law Offices who assisted in the formation of Gateway.

Discussion turned to the potential physical location of the water filtration plant. It was discussed that somewhere just north of Grayville near the 1st Baptist Church would be a good location.

Alderman Gary Mason asked who is in charge with a cooperative and how do they stay away from prevailing wage.

Grayville Commissioner Don Baldwin asked about the land purchase and it was explained the cooperative would buy the acreage necessary to build the plant. Albion Water Operator Marty Reid asked if a 4" line would serve Grayville. Lee Beckman said it would not be large enough.

Discussion then turned to the water wells for Albion and Grayville.

Alderman Gary Mason asked about sewer lines near the proposed location of the plant

Albion Alderman Quentin Speir asked about the water wells and it was explained the two communities could sell raw water to the plant or the wells could be a part of the cooperative. The wells could be a cooperative asset but also, they would come with a liability.

Grayville Commissioner Don Baldwin said if the water wells are combined into a cooperative then would the communities donate the wells to it?

Another item discussed was the use of city employees to operate the plant. It was explained they would have to be paid by the cooperative.

The discussion finished with whether or not additional communities such as Crossville and Ellery would be brought into the cooperative if formed. Lee Beckman said it would not be advantageous.

Austin Ridgely said a motion is needed on which way to go. It was agreed a legal opinion would be needed but deciding on a cooperative or commission was encouraged. Attorney Walden said preliminary approval could be given since the communities are at the beginning states of funding and how it all works. He added USDA Rural Development has said this is the last shot for them funding any feasibility.

Attorney Jay Walden said this would be preliminary approval as everyone is still at the beginning stages for funding and how it all works out. Discussion followed with the need for by-laws for the cooperative.

Grayville Commissioner David Jordan made a motion to enter into an agreement to pursue a cooperative with Albion to move forward with a water filtration plant. Grayville Commissioner James seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Albion Alderman Quentin Speir made a motion to form a cooperative with Grayville for the purpose of building and maintaining a water treatment plant. Alderman Chris Hodgson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Albion City Council members present voting Yes.

Discussion concerning the formation of a committee to meet and report back to the respective elected bodies resulted in a motion from Grayville Commissioner David Jordan to have the Mayor and Water Commissioner serve on the committee representing the City of Grayville. Grayville Commissioner Chris James seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Albion Alderman Gary Mason made a motion to appoint Mayor Wes Harris and Alderman Quentin Speir to the committee representing the City of Albion. The motion was seconded by Chris Hodgson and passed with Yes votes from all except Councilman Quentin Speir who voted No.

ADJOURN: After some clarification about the formation of the cooperative and the need to contact one of the recommended attorneys, the Albion City Council adjourned and Grayville Commissioner Howell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner James. The motion carried.

Approved: 04-25-2022

YEA

Mayor Thompson

YEA

Commissioner Baldwin

YEA

Commissioner Jordan

ABSENT

Commissioner Howell

YEA

Commissioner James

ATTEST:

Jo Ellen Seil

City Clerk