



STAFF REPORT

Board of Aldermen

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1992-0001 AND AMENDING SECTION 90-43 OF THE BRANSON MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO INTRODUCTION OF FLUORIDE INTO PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.

FIRST READING: NOVEMBER 14, 2023

FINAL READING: NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Initiated By: Utilities

Approved By: *Cathy Stepp*

Financial Impact: Other (See additional explanation under Detailed Analysis)

Community Plan 2030: EI-1: Utilities

FACTS:

The Board of Aldermen passed Ordinance No. 1992-0001 on January 14, 1992 authorizing and directing the introduction of fluoride into the Public Water Supply System of the City of Branson. Over recent years there have been concerns presented by the public in regards to the fluoridation of the water system.

The Board of Aldermen have heard from experts on both sides of the issue regarding whether to keep or remove water fluoridation during a designated study session and requested staff to bring the topic before the Board as a vote. Staff conducted the State of Missouri mandatory public comment period which begun on July 28th, 2023, allowing the public to submit comments in favor of or against fluoridation.

During the 90-day period public comments were obtained through our website where members of the public could submit an email expressing their comments on fluoride.

A total of 69 emails received:

11 were pro fluoride, 55 were against fluoride and 3 did not take a stance but rather asked questions.

19 listed their address as residents of Branson, 3 were non-residents and 47 were unclear if they were residents or representatives of any organizations.

Those in favor of fluoride cited: Dental and public health.

Those opposed to fluoride cited: The chemical being hazardous waste and toxic, environmental concerns, the opinion that it should be optional and that is unnecessary, and health concerns such as dental and skeletal fluorosis, thyroid problems, neurological damage, cancer, and cognitive issue.

Staff recommends to amend the municipal code section 90-43 to cease fluoridation due to risk associated with material handling and future equipment replacement cost.

DETAILED ANALYSIS:

Missouri State Statute 640.136. Fluoridation modification, notification to department and customers, when. - 1. Any public water system, as defined in section 640.102, or public water supply district, as defined in chapter 247, which intends to make modifications to fluoridation of its water supply shall notify the department of natural resources, the department of health and senior services, and its customers of its intentions at least ninety days prior to any vote on the matter. The public water system or public water supply district shall notify its customers via radio, television, newspaper, regular mail, electronic means, or any combination of notification methods to most effectively notify customers at least ninety days prior to any meeting at which the vote will occur. Any public water system or public water supply district that violates the notification requirements of this section shall return the fluoridation of its water supply to its previous level until proper notification is provided under the provisions of this section. 2. In the case of an investor-owned water system, the entity calling for the discussion of modifications to fluoridation shall be responsible for the provisions of this section.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Staff Report Exhibit 1 – Ordinance No. 1992-0001 – Fluoride