



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: Monday, February 2, 2026

Prepared By: Brian Rittenhouse – Public Works Director

Agenda Item: Purchase Authorization – Water Treatment Plant #1 Post Chlorine System

Explanation: Council approved switching the Water Treatment Plant #1's disinfection from a Chloramine to Free Chlorine. This allows both pressure zones to have the same disinfection method recommended by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to help reduce water quality issues.

Finished water is used during the backwashing of a filter and softener vessel which reduces the amount of finished water leaving the treatment plant. Once the system changes to a free chlorine system, post chlorine will be fed to keep a free chlorine residual in the system. The reduction of finished water was overlooked during design but realized during our initial startup when finished chlorine levels spiked. Too much chlorine would be fed during backwash cycles unless adjusted. Currently the post chlorine equipment would have to be adjusted manually up or down depending on how much finished water is leaving the treatment facility. A vessel's backwash cycle occurs after a designated amount of water is treated in that specific vessel. At any time during the day or night, a backwash cycle can happen. To feed the proper amount of chlorine to meet disinfection requirements, flow paced chlorine equipment would need to be installed. Flow-paced chlorine equipment would allow for the proper amount of chlorine to be fed during normal operation and during backwash cycles automatically.

Fiscal Impact: \$26,650.00 for completion of the post chlorine system. There are sufficient funds to cover this project.

Recommendation: Staff recommends purchase authorization for automatic chlorine feed equipment, installation and SCADA integration.

Action Requested: Approve purchase authorization for \$26,650.00 to complete the Post Chlorine System at Water Treatment Plant #1