



City of Fort Atkinson  
City Manager's Office  
101 N. Main Street  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

**FORT ATKINSON CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY FLUORIDE LISTENING SESSION  
IN PERSON  
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025 – 5:00 PM  
DWIGHT FOSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY – COMMUNITY ROOM**

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**MINUTES**

**1. Call meeting to order**

President Jaeckel called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**2. Roll call**

Present: Council Reps: Huckabee, Lescohier, Schultz and President Jaeckel. Also present: City Manager, Director of Public Works, City Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director, Water Superintendent.

**3. New Business**

- a. Presentation of information relating to fluoride in the City of Fort Atkinson Water System*  
Manager Houseman stated that several City Council members have inquired about the City of Fort Atkinson's use of fluoride in the City's public water system. This listening session is intended to accomplish the following items:

1. Provide the City Council and the public with information relating to the City's use of fluoride in the water system.
2. Provide an opportunity to gather feedback from the public relating to the City's use of fluoride in the water system.
3. Provide the City Council with an opportunity to discuss the use of fluoride and provide staff with direction moving forward.

Houseman continued with history of the City of Fort Atkinson using fluoride in the public water system since December 28, 1949. The City initially added fluoride as a means to support oral health for children and has done so ever since. Both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommend that operators of public water supplies add fluoride to water systems within the range of 0.6 to 0.8 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for optimal dental benefits. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for fluoride in drinking water of 4 mg/L. The City is required to monitor and control fluoride levels to ensure compliance with these regulations to protect public health. In June, City staff tested the raw water from wells 6 and 7 to determine if there is a natural

level of fluoride in the City's aquifer. Well 6 had a level of 0.09 mg/L, and Well 7 had a level of 0.05 mg/L. Neither of these meets the recommended levels by the DNR or DHS. The level the City currently strives for is 0.7 mg/L. The City reports all water testing results to the DNR on a monthly basis. The City has been in compliance with the DNR relating to levels of fluoridation in the water system since record keeping began through this system in 1992. Staff monitors the levels of fluoride in the water system on a daily basis at each well site. The City also publishes the annual water quality report on the City's website.

The cost of the chemical on an annual basis is about \$8,900; and the cost associated with injection maintenance at the four wells is about \$2,600 annually. The labor costs are nominal, meaning that any reduction in chemical injection would not result in labor cost savings. The annual total is about \$11,500 for fluoridation. The 2025 Water Utility Fund (Fund 3) operating and capital budget is \$3,955,000. As a percentage of the overall budget, the cost of fluoridation is 0.3%. The cost per capita is roughly \$0.92 per year, assuming a population of 12,500 people.

#### **4. Listening Session**

- a. The Fort Atkinson City Council will receive public comments relating to the matter on the agenda. Speakers must be City residents, property owners, or business representatives in the City. Comments are generally limited to three minutes per individual. Anyone wishing to speak is required to sign up in advance and state their name and address for the record when called upon. The Council President may limit the total time allotted for public comments to 45 minutes.*

Joan Callan 522 Robert Street - spoke too the benefits of fluoride. She referenced Calgary, Canada that discontinued fluoride usage for 10 years and when it was voted to reintroduce, it cost \$28 million to reintroduce fluoride in their City.

John Callan, 522 Robert Street - he questioned the reason for this session. He supports fluoride in the water system.

Dr. Donald Williams, 411 Frederick Avenue - retired Doctor raised in Illinois that did not have fluoride and has had cavities and crowns. He supports fluoride in the water system.

Amanda Golson, 714 Riverside Drive - She supports fluoride in the water system. She was raised in a community without fluoride and had to take supplements.

Mark Meisegeier, N185 Garvert Lane - hygienist at Rock River Clinic. He supports keeping fluoride in the water system.

Joan Fitzgerald, 545 Straford Court - She supports fluoride in the water system and referenced her children having healthy teeth from city water with fluoride.

Catherine Sweeney, 99 Jackson Street - Referenced a 2022 article in the Daily Union where Jefferson City Council voted to remove fluoride. She support keeping fluoride in the water system.

Jim Marousis, 94 Shirley Street - satisfied with services in the City and asked where this idea came from. Urged Council to listen to the community and work towards items that are concerning to city residents.

Olivia Nichols, Director Rock River Community Clinic - provides medical and dental services to community members. She supports fluoride in the water system.

Dawn Kiernin, Rock River Community Clinic - advocated for her patients and supports fluoride in the water system.

Dr. Stacey Eby, Eby Family Dental - Spoke in support of fluoride in the water system.

Dr. Alex Karges-Kiernan, Rock River Community Clinic - she supports fluoride in the water system.

## **5. Discussion**

- a. *The City Council will discuss the use of fluoride in the City's water system. After such discussion, staff requests that the City Council provide direction for future action item(s) on a regular City Council agenda.*

Cm. Schultz thanked those that spoke tonight.

Cm. Huckabee stated she had people contact her with concerns about the addition of fluoride to the water system. She stated that Florida took fluoride out of their water system.

Cm. Lescohier thanked those in support of speaking tonight. He stated he has never had a resident contact him regarding fluoride in his tenure on City Council. He supports fluoride in the water system.

President Jaeckel stated he brought forward the topic for the listening session after a Council person requested the topic. He is not for or against the topic but wanted community feedback.

Cm. Schultz acknowledged the City levels are well within the directive and support fluoride in the water system.

Cm. Huckabee confirmed the City is within safe levels. She feels it is important to have listening sessions and stated those that contacted her regarding fluoride in the water system did not attend tonight's session to make comments.

Cm Lescohier does not feel this topic should move forward.

Cm. Schultz pointed out the dentists and dental professionals in the community support fluoride in the water system.

**6. Adjournment**

Cm. Schultz moved, seconded by Cm. Lescohier to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Ebbert

City Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director