



City of Appleton

100 North Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54911-4799
www.appletonwi.gov

Meeting Agenda - Final Finance Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

6:45 PM

Council Chambers, 6th Floor

Special Meeting

1. Call meeting to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call of membership
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

5. Public Hearing/Appearances

6. Action Items

[25-0040](#)

Request to approve resolution for Emergency Sodium Hypochlorite Tank Replacement at Appleton Water Treatment Facility.

Attachments: [RESOLUTION AWTF HypochloriteTankReplacement FINAL.pdf](#)

[250128 Finance Memo - Emergency Hypochlorite Tank Replacement FINAL.pc](#)

[0046 - Tank Repair - DG Memo to Finance 01-25-2025.pdf.pdf](#)

7. Information Items

8. Adjournment

Notice is hereby given that a quorum of the Common Council may be present during this meeting, although no Council action will be taken.

Reasonable Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities will be made upon Request and if Feasible.

For questions regarding this agenda, please contact Jeri Ohman at (920) 832-5742.

RESOLUTION
Emergency Sodium Hypochlorite Tank Replacement at Appleton Water Treatment Facility

WHEREAS, one of three 11,000 gallon sodium hypochlorite tanks at the Appleton Water Treatment Facility has failed; and

WHEREAS, the structural damage caused by chemical deterioration of the fiberglass tank is so significant that interior or exterior in-situ repairs will not effectively address all potential failure points; and

WHEREAS, the structural damage caused by chemical exposure and deterioration of the fiberglass tank is so significant that in-situ repairs will not effectively address all other potential failure points; and

WHEREAS, all existing tanks are of the same vintage and the failure of another hypochlorite bulk storage tank would jeopardize disinfection treatment processes presenting an immediate and significant danger to the public health and safety without emergency replacement; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute § 62.15(1b) allows for the Finance Committee, as a board of public works, to determine that an emergency has been created by the damage or threatened damage to a public facility in which the public health or welfare is endangered; and

WHEREAS, City staff have identified a qualified contractor that can immediately begin addressing the emergency replacement of the bulk storage tanks through emergency procurement; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Finance Committee determines that the danger to the public health and welfare from the damage to all three 11,000 gallon sodium hypochlorite bulk storage tanks at the Appleton Wastewater Treatment Facility creates an emergency for repair and reconstruction to a public facility pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 62.15(1b).

Adopted this 5th day of February 2025.

CITY OF APPLETON | FINANCE COMMITTEE

By: _____
Alderson Brad Firkus
Finance Committee Chair

Attest: _____
Kami Lynch
City Clerk



DEPARTMENT OF
UTILITIES

Department of Utilities
Water Treatment Facility
2281 Manitowoc Rd.
Menasha, WI 54952
p: 920-997-4200
f: 920-997-3240

www.appleton.org/government/utilities

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 28, 2025
To: Chairperson Brad Firkus and Members of the Finance Committee
CC: Assistant City Attorney Darrin Glad
Kelli Rindt, Enterprise Accounting Fund Manager
From: Chris Stempa, Director of Utilities *CFS*
Subject: **Finance Committee Emergency Authorization: Appleton Water Treatment Plant Bulk Hypochlorite Tank Replacement**

BACKGROUND:

Sodium hypochlorite is used at the Appleton Water Treatment Facility (AWTF) as regulatory approved disinfection process chemical. Sodium hypochlorite is housed in three (3) 11,000-gallon fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) bulk storage tanks that were originally commissioned in 2001. Tank manufacturers typically expect up to 15 years of life when storing 12.5% sodium hypochlorite in an FRP tank before relining is necessary to restore the interior protective coating layers.

In early January, staff discovered a sizeable leak in one of the three sodium hypochlorite (also known as bleach) bulk storage tanks. Sodium hypochlorite is the primary disinfection chemical used in drinking water treatment and is mandated for use by the EPA and WDNR. The inside of all three bulk storage tanks were relined in 2022 and 2023. That marked the second time they were relined since original installation. Relining fiberglass tanks is an accepted industry practice to extend their useful life (typically up to 25 years, depending on the chemical). Unfortunately, pin leaks had been observed in all three tanks since the last relining event but located in areas where relining can be challenging because of limited space (e.g. tank penetration gussets). Those leaks were immediately and successfully repaired within the contract warranty period. However, one of the bulk tanks had more extensive repairs completed on it prior to failing again in early January 2025 and on January 28th a leak was observed on a second bulk tank which has elevated the need for action.

Relining the inside does not effectively add structural strength but is intended to only reestablish the interior corrosion barrier. The leaks that have been experienced since the last relining event directly coincides to the tanks being loaded or filled as part of routine chemical deliveries. It is suspected that the tanks flex when subjected to lateral force during fill/drain cycles which forms microcracks in the protective barrier that bleed through the underlying structural layer. The intent now is to replace the bulk storage tanks given the

structural integrity concerns in all the tanks. Management staff is presently taking steps contract with an area contractor to repair one of the offline tanks. This would only be considered a temporary repair to ensure that the treatment operations had two reliable tanks in service while replacement tanks are being fabricated.

RECOMMENDATION:

Disinfection processes can be maintained with two bulk storage tanks but would be extremely hampered if required to only operate on one tank. There would be no redundancy or backup storage capacity if another tank were to fail. Given the similar age of these tanks, it is in the city's best interest to authorize emergency procurement that would take steps to replace the bulk storage tanks.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Stempa at 920-832-5945.


Encl: Emergency Resolution



DEPARTMENT OF
**LEGAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES**

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
100 North Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54911
p: 920.832.6423
f: 920.832.5962
www.appletonwi.gov

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Assistant City Attorney Darrin Glad 

DATE: January 28, 2025

RE: Emergency Sodium Hypochlorite Tank Replacement at Appleton Water Treatment Facility Resolution
Our File No. A25-0046

This memo accompanies the Emergency Sodium Hypochlorite Tank Replacement at Appleton Water Treatment Facility Resolution. Wis. Stat. § 62.15(1b) allows a public emergency exception to certain requirements for public works contracts, stating:

The provisions of sub. (1) ... are not mandatory for the repair and reconstruction of public facilities when damage or threatened damage thereto creates an emergency, as determined by resolution of the board of public works¹ ... , in which the public health or welfare of the city is endangered.

If the Finance Committee determines through resolution that the damage to the bulk sodium hypochlorite tanks at the Appleton Water Treatment Facility create an emergency in which the public health or welfare of the City is endangered, the City can immediately proceed to contract to alleviate the deteriorated facilities.

¹ In 2013, the Charter Ordinances of the Municipal Code of the City of Appleton were changed to repeal the Board of Public Works and assign all their previous duties to the Finance Committee.