

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on June 25, 2019 immediately following the City Council meeting which begins at 5:30 PM in the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers.

The following items will be considered:

1. Roll Call
2. Council President's Report
3. Administrator's Report
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Discussion Items
 - A. Discussion Regarding Formation of a City Labor Committee (*Councilor Whitebird*)
 - B. Census Redistricting Information (*Councilor Ullman*)
 - C. Budget 101 Presentation (*Administrator Kucera*)
 - D. Snow Clearing Policies and Prodecures (*Councilors Ullman and Ortman*)
 - E. Safe Drinking Water Act Violations: Opportunity for Questions
 - F. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Reducing Mowing in the City of Ashland through perennial, low mow, and Native Planting (*Ortman*)
6. Adjournment

The City of Ashland does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities.

NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals or individuals with limited English proficiency through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Denise Oliphant at 715-682-7071 (not a TDD telephone number) or FAX: 715-682-7048

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Formation of a City Labor Committee (*Councilor Whitebird*)

RECOMMENDATION: As Council Desires

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Councilor Whitebird

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The formation of the Labor Committee in assurance that this committee will above all else, seek the improvement of working conditions in our community workplaces by organizing with participating members of our community involved in the struggle for the better prosperity of workers of the City of Ashland.

The immediate aims will be to establish dialogue with unions, workers, and citizens whose concerns lie with the workers of Ashland whose concerns are toward the genuine development of: prosperity, safety, democracy in their workplace & livelihoods.

Such aims may include but are not limited to: Providing the public with the means to form unions and make an effort in the education of the public of the benefits of unionization in prosperous work environments in which workers feel they are either not being well compensated, or safe. To ensure that the city of Ashland remains a city which is committed to protecting the rights of all workers to work regardless to their ethnicity, gender, religion, age, citizenship status, or other protectable status in which laws at federal and state may change and undermine the protections of workers abroad. But shall not here in Ashland so as long as our community perseveres to protect the vulnerable and marginalized as far as our authority as a city and community permits to this these ends in partnership and guidance with the labor committee and its participating citizens.

Excerpt from Ordinance 51

51.27. Appointment of Special Committees. All special committees of the Council shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council unless otherwise directed by the Council, and all special subcommittees of the Committee of the Whole shall be appointed by the Council President and confirmed by the Committee, unless otherwise directed by the Committee.

SUBJECT: Census Redistricting Information (*Councilor Ullman*)**RECOMMENDATION:** Discussion Only**DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN:** Councilor Ullman**CLEARANCES:** Council President**EXHIBITS:****FINANCIAL IMPACT:** TBD**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

On May 29th, 2018 the Council voted 8-2 to reduce the size of the Council from eleven to seven after the 2020 census. This agenda item is to remind Council that planning for the reduction and redistricting will need to begin now.

Background on the decision:

The table below provides a comparison of Ashland to other small and medium sized cities in Wisconsin. The disproportionately large number of council members relative to population was the primary factor in the decision to proceed with reducing the size of the council.

Wisconsin City	Approximate Population	Number of Councilors/Board Members	Number of Citizens Represented in each Ward/District
Ashland	8,200	11	745
Waterford	5,340	6	890
Delafield	7,160	7	1,020
Rice Lake	8,420	8	1,050
Hudson	8,460	6	1,410
Lisbon	9,360	5	1,870
St. Francis	9,550	6	1,590
Burlington	10,460	8	1,300
Little Chute	10,490	6	1,750
Verona	10,600	8	1,325
Monroe	10,825	9	1,200

Other reasons mentioned for reducing the size of the council included:

- *cost savings for training and overhead
- *Council seats often uncontested
- *more efficient decision making and government
- *shorter meetings align with the best practices of other municipalities
- *allow for a possible pay raise to incentivize service and compensate work
- *could also convert some seats to “at large” providing for more electoral competition

Excerpts from relevant Wisconsin Statutes

5.15 Division of municipalities into wards.

(2)(b) Except for wards created to effect an act of the legislature redistricting legislative districts under article IV, section 3, of the constitution or redistricting congressional districts and except as authorized under pars.(bm),(c),(e), and(f) and sub.(7), wards shall contain the following numbers of inhabitants:

1. In any city in which the population is at least 150,000, each ward shall contain not less than 1,000 nor more than 4,000 inhabitants.
2. In any city in which the population is at least 39,000 but less than 150,000, each ward shall contain not less than 800 nor more than 3,200 inhabitants.
3. In any city, village or town in which the population is at least 10,000 but less than 39,000, each ward shall contain not less than 600 nor more than 2,100 inhabitants.
4. In any city, village or town in which the population is less than 10,000, each ward shall contain not less than 300 nor more than 1,000 inhabitants.

(4)(bg) No later than October 15 of each year following the year of a federal decennial census, each municipal clerk shall file a report with the county clerk of each county in which the municipality is contained confirming the boundaries of the municipality and of all wards in the municipality. The report shall be accompanied by a map of the municipality and a list of the block numbers of which the municipality and each ward within the municipality are comprised. Each report filed under this paragraph shall identify the name of the municipality and the county or counties in which it is located.

62.08 Alteration of aldermanic districts

(1) Within 60 days after the wards have been readjusted under s.5.15 (1) and (2) the common council of every city, including every 1st class city, shall redistrict the boundaries of its aldermanic districts, by an ordinance introduced at a regular meeting of the council, published as a class 2 notice, under ch.985, and thereafter adopted by a majority vote of all the members of the council, so that all aldermanic districts are as compact in area as possible and contain, as nearly as practicable by combining contiguous whole wards, an equal number of inhabitants according to the most recent decennial federal census of population. Territory within each aldermanic district to be created under the plan shall be contiguous, except that territory within the city that is wholly surrounded by another city or water, or both, may be combined with non-contiguous territory, or island territory, as defined in s.5.15 (2) (f) 3., may be combined with non-contiguous territory within the same municipality to form an aldermanic district. The aldermanic district plan shall not include provision for division of any census block unless the block is bisected by a municipal boundary or the division is made as required under s.5.15 (2) (c). The populations of the aldermanic districts shall be determined on the basis of the federal decennial census and any official corrections to the census to reflect the correct populations of the municipality

and the blocks within the municipality on April 1 of the year of the census, if the corrections are issued prior to division of the municipality into wards under s.5.15. Within 60 days after enactment or adoption of a revised division ordinance or resolution under s.5.15 (4) (a), the common council shall amend the aldermanic district plan to reflect any renumbering of the wards specified in the plan.

(3) Whenever the boundaries of aldermanic districts are altered, or new aldermanic districts created, every aldermanic district or ward officer residing within the territory of a new or altered aldermanic district shall hold the same respective office therein for the remainder of the officer's term; and all other vacancies shall be filled as provided by law for the filling of such vacancies.

(4) The common council of any city may, by a two-thirds vote of all its members but not more frequently than once in 2 years, increase or decrease the number of aldermanic districts or the number of members of the city council, and in that case shall redistrict, readjust and change the boundaries of aldermanic districts, so that they are as nearly equal in population according to the most recent city-wide federal census as practicable by combining contiguous whole wards. In redistricting such cities the original numbers of the aldermanic districts in their geographic outlines shall as far as possible be retained, and the aldermanic districts so created and those the boundaries of which are changed shall be in as compact form as possible. This subsection does not apply to changes in aldermanic districts authorized under sub.(4m).

Proposed Next Steps:

*The Mayor will work with city staff to reach out the Wisconsin Elections Commission and League of Wisconsin Municipalities in order to gather additional information about the redistricting process, as well as best practices and advice from other communities, and report back to the Committee of the Whole by an agreed upon date.

*Establish a timeline and process for redistricting

*Carry out necessary communication with counties about redistricting plans.

*City staff will evaluate relevant statutes to ensure compliance with requirements.

Tentative Timeline:

***2019 and 2020:** Evaluate redistricting requirements, create redistricting plan, finalize plans for council size and composition.

***Spring 2021:** Census results available, create new districts according to plan.

***Summer 2021:** Council must adopt a redistricting ordinance in compliance with 62.08(1)

***October 2021:** The clerk must file a report with the county clerks confirming the boundaries of the wards.

***April 2022:** First election with new ward boundaries, begin transition to smaller council.

Remaining Questions:

*Evaluate Statue 5.15 (2) (b) to determine if we need to have 8 members (rather than 7) based on guidance for the number of electors in each ward.

*With 7 (or 8) councilors could we have some at-large seats, or would at- large seats be in addition to the wards?

*How will new district boundaries be drawn and by whom?

SUBJECT: Budget 101 Presentation (*Administrator Kucera*)

RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Administration

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Before we begin drafting the FY 2020 budget I believe it is imperative to review the basics of municipal budgeting with the City Council. A presentation will be reviewed together at the time of the meeting.

SUBJECT: Snow Clearing Policies and Prodecures (*Councilors Ullman and Ortman*)

RECOMMENDATION: Refer to Public Works Committee

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Councilors Ullman and Ortman

CLEARANCES: None

EXHIBITS:

1. City Snow Removal Areas
2. Snowy sidewalk

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

After heavy snowfall this winter a number of issues related to snow clearing policies and procedures have been raised.

1)Fire Hydrants: Counselor Ortman raised concerns about fire hydrant clearing, and asked that this agenda item be included for discussion by the Committee of the Whole. Communities have a variety of strategies to address this, including ordinances that require residents to clear hydrants or face fines, encouraging residents to clear hydrants but not requiring it through an ordinance, and municipal clearing of hydrants. Ashland does not have a policy at this time.

2)Sidewalks in School Zones: This winter middle school students were walking to school in the road on 11th Street because the sidewalk was not cleared in a number of places, and in other places the sidewalks were clear but the corners had large piles from the plows. Some communities identify priority areas of sidewalk that are cleared by the city. Duluth is an example, you can see on this interactive map that they have identified priority areas including safe routes to school and certain high traffic pedestrian areas where the city takes responsibility for clearing sidewalks. <http://www.duluthmn.gov/winterwatch/sidewalk-priority-maps/> The MN Sidewalk Snow Clearing Guide attached to the packet also discusses possible corner clearing procedures using city equipment to clear off the snow piled by plows on street corners.

The public works committee discussed this issue at their June 13th meeting, below is a summary prepared by the Public Works Director:

The PWC commented on the lack of consistent sidewalk snow removal by residents and acknowledged it as an issue. Consensus was that rather than upping code enforcement efforts in these cases, it would be more effective for the City to remove snow, when needed, and bill property owners. This would have the double effect of ensuring snow is removed in a timely manner and provided incentive for property owners to not

neglect the responsibility. Chanz Green commented that this was the practice in Amery, his previous employer. The City would focus on priority sidewalk areas approved by Council and complete this work after routine snow removal has been completed (streets, alleys, downtown, City owned sidewalks). A barrier to this approach would be the fact that the City currently removes snow from the downtown area (shown on map) free of charge to adjacent property owners. The PWC committee agreed that this issue should be addressed before moving forward with either more code enforcement or assigning more sidewalk snow removal to PW. The PWC inquired as to how much money PW currently spends annually on snow removal, John Butler to follow up. Because it is known that this is a significant expenditure, the PWC committee suggested approaching the School District about availability of their resources to provide safe routes to school.

Regarding the issue of fire hydrants, John Butler reported that he asked David Wegner of the Fire Department for input and he responded that simply marking all hydrants with color coded flags (only some have them) would be the most effective approach to supporting the FD, as opposed to focusing on shoveling to clear them in case of a fire. David noted that the critical need is to know exactly where to go to find a hydrant, not having it cleared ahead of time. The PWC committee commented that this may be a significant task, in terms of energy and time spent, to ask of residential property owners and presented more code enforcement issues. PW and the FD are also currently engaged in information sharing regarding the GIS database of fire hydrants and David Wegner expressed hope that this would also work to support the FD's efforts moving forward.



SUBJECT: Safe Drinking Water Act Violations: Opportunity for Questions

RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Council President

CLEARANCES: Public Works Director

EXHIBITS: 1. Public Notice, June 2019

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Public Works recently distributed information to all water users related to two violations of the Safe Water Drinking Act (SWDA); 1) a violation of the lead and copper rule 2) a violation of the public notification requirements.

This agenda item is an opportunity to ask questions to the Public Works Director and Utilities Manager.



City of Ashland, Wisconsin ~ Department of Public Works
2020 6th Street East Ashland ~ WI 54806 ~ www.coawi.org

June 7, 2019

Dear Water Utility Customer,

Enclosed you will find several informational brochures that are intended to provide customer education and information regarding the City of Ashland Water System, as required by applicable regulatory agencies.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin requires that each customer receive the **Utility Customer Bill of Rights**.

Residential Water User Cross-Connection Hazards is provided to inform all customers of possible cross connections within your home or business. Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, the DNR, under NR 810.15, requires every municipal water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross-connection control program for the elimination of all existing cross-connections as well as the prevention of future cross-connections. Cross connections present a potential connection between the safe drinking water supply and a source of contamination or pollution. Residential cross connection surveys are completed annually by Utility employees. HydroCorp, Inc. is contracted by the Utility to perform the cross connection inspections of all commercial, industrial and multi-family connections to the water supply. HydroCorp also assists the Utility in identifying the need for the installation of backflow prevention devices or assemblies, where necessary, in order to prevent contamination of clean drinking water.

Lead Public Education Program for Municipal Water Systems is being distributed to inform all customers that the Utility has found elevated levels of lead in its drinking water in some homes or buildings. The Utility understands the importance of monitoring lead in the water system and informing customers of findings. The Utility continues to replace the public side of the lead service lines, which run from the water main in the street to the curb stop at individual homes, on an annual basis. Please review the attached materials carefully to see what you can do to reduce your lead exposure in drinking water.

Currently, approximately 14% of public service lines in the City include some level of lead. The City of Ashland is committed to addressing the potential health impacts of lead service lines and completes regular testing to ensure that lead levels are within the limits established by regulatory agencies. In addition to testing, the City has taken many steps to mitigate potential health related impacts of lead:

- Water sampling and monitoring;
- Replacement of public lead laterals whenever reconstruction projects allow for the opportunity with funding provided through user rates;
- Community education on how to reduce lead exposure;
- Replacement of private lead laterals through a grant program funded through the DNR.

The City implemented a Private Lead Lateral Replacement Program with the help of a grant the City received through the DNR Safe Drinking Water Program. The City encourages homeowners to replace private lead laterals, the portion of the service line that runs from the curb stop to the building. Letters were sent out earlier in the year to property owners who qualify for private lead service lateral replacement. If you have further question or you would like additional information on the **Lead Lateral Replacement Program contact Phil Wesner, LSL Grant Coordinator at 715.292.2023.**

The Public Information Notice is required to inform Utility customers that a lead exceedance occurred. Although prior notices have been sent to all customers, this letter and enclosed brochures ensure that all public education and notification, as required by the DNR, are met. There will be a follow up notification in the Ashland Daily Press along with notifications on the monthly water bill.

The elevated levels of lead were observed in 2017 and since this period of time, the Utility has completed all required water quality sampling and monitoring.

The City of Ashland is committed to ensuring the continued provision of safe drinking water to all customers and regulatory compliance for the City's water system. Qualified personnel oversee and manage the water system on a daily basis in order to ensure these goals are met and the Utility will continue to provide public education and notification to customers as needed.

For further information please contact the City of Ashland Public Works Department at 715.682.7061.

Sincerely,

Ashland Public Works Department – Ashland Water Utility

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for ASHLAND WATERWORKS

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. Between June 1, 2017 and November 30, 2017, we did not complete **water quality parameter monitoring and specific source water samples for lead and copper**, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

What precautions should be taken at this time?

There are no special precautions you need to take at this time. However, it is important to remember that the quality of your drinking water is not known at this time.

What was the cause of the missed monitoring requirements?

The Ashland Water Utility was notified by the Wisconsin DNR in January 2018 after the time period.

What is being done to correct the problem?

When the Utility was notified, the error was corrected and samples were collected.

When will the problem be resolved?

The problem was resolved in the first quarter of 2018.

If you have questions regarding the safety of our drinking water, please contact:

Chanz Green

715-682-7194

Name of Responsible Person

Area Code-Telephone Number

2020 6th Street East

Ashland

WI

54806

Street Address

City

State

Zip

I certify that the information and statements contained in this public notice are true and correct and have been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements in Subchapter VII of ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code.

X

Signature

6-4-19

Date

****Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Public Education Requirements Not Met for ASHLAND WATER UTILITY

We are required to complete a public education program regarding elevated lead in drinking water on an annual basis. Ninetieth percentile results of lead and copper compliance samples exceeded the lead action level during the most recent compliance period. The public education material explains the health effects and source of lead in drinking water, and ways to reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water. We failed to **complete** Public Education requirements in accordance with s. NR 809.546 Wis. Adm. Code.

What precautions should be taken at this time?

Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours. Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap

What was the cause of the missed public education requirements?

The Utility did not prepare the annual mailing in the required time frame.

What is being done to correct the problem?

The public education brochure is provided with this annual mailing. Additional information will be included with the water bill.

When will the problem be resolved?

June 2019

If you have questions regarding the safety of our drinking water, please contact:

Chanz Green

715-682-7194

Name of Responsible Person

Area Code-Telephone

2020 6th Street East

Ashland,

Number

WI

54806

Street Address

City

State

Zip

I certify that the information and statements contained in this public notice are true and correct and have been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements in Subchapter X of ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code.

X

Signature

Date

6-4-19

****Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.**

What if you have a complaint?

If you have a dispute regarding electric, gas or water service, the PSCW can help:

Did you contact your utility to resolve the dispute?

- Both you and the utility must make reasonable attempts to resolve a dispute



No?

- Contact the utility using its contact information included with the bill or notice



Yes?

- You may contact PSCW Consumer Affairs to try to resolve the issue

Conservation & Moving

If you would like information on conservation or are expecting to move to another location, contact your utility. The utility can provide estimated energy costs at the new location, in the form of average energy used or the largest and smallest bills in the last twelve months. As another note on conservation, it is recommended that water heater thermostats be set no higher than 125° Fahrenheit.

For more information on conservation, go to FOCUSONENERGY.COM or call: 1-800-762-7077



About Us

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) is an independent regulatory agency dedicated to serving the public interest. The agency is responsible for the regulation of Wisconsin public electric, gas and water utilities, including those that are municipally-owned, since 1907. The PSCW works to ensure that, in the absence of competition, adequate and reasonably priced service is provided to utility customers.

Contact Us

Phone (Local/Toll Free)

General: 608-266-5481 / 888-266-3831

Consumer Affairs: 608-266-2001 / 800-225-7729

Web

<http://psc.wi.gov>

You can also Log a Complaint Online at:

<http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/complaint.htm>

En la Comisión de Servicios Públicos del estado de Wisconsin (PSCW) podemos ayudarle en español. Cuando llame a la PSCW, simplemente indique que quisiera servicio en español, y conectaremos a un intérprete a la línea.



Updated: (04/2018)

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION OF
WISCONSIN
P.O. BOX 7854
MADISON, WI
53707-7854



Utility Customer Bill of Rights

Your Rights as a Residential Electric, Gas, or Water Utility Customer

Disconnections

A utility can disconnect your service for:

- Nonpayment
- Default on a deferred payment agreement
- Nonpayment of a deposit
- “Name switching” on an account where a customer did not pay their bill and continues to reside at that address
- Tampering with utility equipment
- Safety hazards or other emergencies
- Failure to provide access to a meter or utility-owned equipment

A utility must:

- Send you notice before disconnection (except where there is a safety hazard or self-reconnection)
- Include the reason(s) for disconnection, ways to contact the utility, and the dispute procedure on the notice

Winter Disconnection Rules

If a utility service provides the primary heat source to your home or impacts the primary heat source to your home (for example, water or steam radiators), a utility cannot disconnect that service from November 1st through April 15th. Before winter, the utility must attempt to contact customers whose service was disconnected for nonpayment. Utilities are also required to check the customer’s well-being, attempt to negotiate payment plans, and inform the customer about any special assistance available to avoid disconnection.

Medical or Protective Services Emergencies

If a disconnection will aggravate a medical or protective services emergency, the utility may delay service shut-off for up to 21 days. The utility may require documentation from a professional involved with the medical emergency or crisis. Contact your utility about any such special circumstances.

Deposits

Utility companies may require a deposit for service to ensure payment. A standard deposit cannot exceed the sum of the two largest consecutive bills during the last twelve months. A deposit requested due to nonpayment during the winter months cannot exceed the four highest consecutive bills during the last twelve months. The following rules apply to payment and refund of deposits:

Existing Residential Customer

- Deposits can be requested if:
 - your service was disconnected during the last 12 months for nonpayment of an undisputed account or your initial application was falsified or incomplete.

Winter Moratorium

- Deposits can be requested if:
 - you had debt incurred during the winter (November 1st through April 15th) that was 80 days or more past due and you had the ability to pay.

New Residential Customer

- Deposits can be requested if:
 - you have an unpaid bill for utility service anywhere in Wisconsin during the last six years which remains outstanding.

Low Income Customer

- You do not have to post a deposit if you can document that your income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Please contact your utility, Energy Assistance, or the PSCW for additional information on low income resources.

For residential service, the deposit will be refunded, with interest, after 12 consecutive months of prompt payment.

Budget Billing & Deferred Payment Agreements (DPAs)

To manage high winter gas bills or high summer electric bills, ask your utility about budget payment plans. This allows you to average estimated annual use into even monthly payments. Every six months, your payment amount is readjusted to reflect your actual use. At the end of a budget year, your bill is adjusted to correct over-billing or under-billing.

You may also request a deferred payment agreement (DPA) to pay a current or past due balance. A DPA consists of a down payment on the balance and installment payments toward the remaining balance negotiated between you and your utility depending on your situation. If the installment payments are not paid, the utility may disconnect your service. Municipal utilities may not be required to offer a DPA to some customers.

Delinquent Bills Levied as a Tax or Lien

Under state law, some delinquent municipal utility bills may be transferred as a tax to the property tax bill of the property owner or as a lien on tenant’s personal assets.

Meter Readings

Generally, meter readings are based on actual meter readings by the utility or the customer. If a utility cannot read your meter, a customer does not provide a reading, or there is an emergency, you may receive an estimated bill. The PSCW requires electric and gas utilities to read your meter at least once every six months and when there is a change of customer. You must allow utilities to perform meter readings or your service can be disconnected.

Did you know...

Your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected!

The purpose of the local Cross-Connection Control Program, as required by State Plumbing Code and Regulations, is to ensure that everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.

Public Health & Safety....

To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross-connection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all public water suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross-Connection Control Program involving public education, onsite inspections, and possible corrective actions by building owners if required.

More Information

WI Department of Safety and Professional Services (formerly DOC)
www.dsps.wi.gov



WI Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.wi.gov



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
www.epa.gov



Cross-Connection Control / Backflow Prevention
www.hydrodesignsinc.com/wiccc.html



Drinking Water Information

City of Ashland Wisconsin
Water Utility
2020 6th Street East
Ashland WI 54806
715-682-7194

Find yourself next to the water

ASHLAND
WISCONSIN

City of Ashland Wisconsin

Water Utility
2020 6th Street East
Ashland WI 54806
715-682-7194

Residential Water User Cross-Connection Hazards

Bathrooms & Kitchens



We're All Connected.....

**Maintaining the integrity of your
public drinking water system.**

What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-Connections must be properly protected or eliminated.

How does contamination occur?

When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it left the treatment plant. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own drinking water or even the public water supply.

Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as Backflow. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: back siphonage and backpressure.

Backsiphonage

May occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a fire fighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system.

Backpressure

May be created when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.

In the Bathroom - Hand Held Shower Fixture

The hand held shower fixture is compliant if:

- When shower head is hanging freely, it is at least 1" above top of the flood level rim of the receptor (tub)
- Complies with **ASSE#1014**
- Has the **ASME code 112.18.1** stamped on the handle



1" Minimum AIR GAP Above
Tub From Fixture Outlet

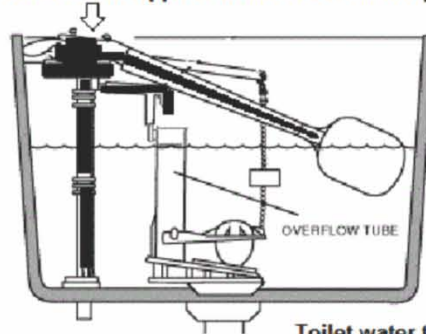
Bath Tub

In the Bathroom - Toilet Tanks

There are many unapproved toilet tank fill valve products sold at common retailers which do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

- Look for the **ASSE #1002** Standard symbol on the device and packaging
- Replace any unapproved devices with an **ASSE #1002** approved anti siphon ball-cock assembly. Average cost is typically \$12 to \$22 at home improvement stores
- Verify overflow tube is one inch below critical level (CL) marking on the device

ASSE #1002 Approved Ball Cock Assembly



Toilet water tank

Insights to protect your drinking water

Do...

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- Make sure dishwashers are installed with a proper "air gap" device.
- Verify and install a simple hose bibb vacuum breaker on all threaded faucets around your home.
- Make sure water treatment devices such as water softeners have the proper "air gap", which is a minimum of one inch above any drain.

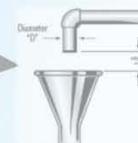
Hose bibb Vacuum Breaker



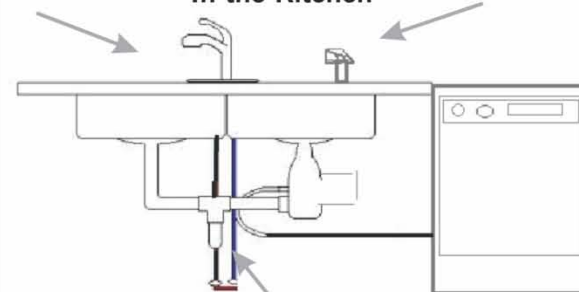
Don't...

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks or ponds.
- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- Connect waste pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems directly to the sewer or submerged drain pipe. Always be sure there is a one inch "air gap" separation.

Air Gap



In the Kitchen



Hoses and water treatment devices may create a potential backflow hazard if not properly isolated with backflow prevention methods.

LEAD PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM for MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER.

Ashland Water Utility found elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some homes or buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health effects of Lead.

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children.

Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected, more than healthy adults at lower levels of lead. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones while in utero, which may affect the child's brain development.

Lead in drinking water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Sources of Lead in drinking water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets, and in some cases, pipes made of lead that connect your house to the water main (service lines). In 1986, congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon after returning from work or school, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Steps you can take to reduce exposure to Lead in drinking Water

Despite our best efforts mentioned earlier to control water corrosivity and remove lead from the water supply, lead levels in some homes or buildings can be high. To find out whether you need to take action in your own home, have your drinking water tested to determine if it contains excessive concentrations of lead. Testing the water is essential because you cannot see, taste or smell lead in drinking water. Some local laboratories that can provide this service are listed at the end of this booklet. For more information on having your water tested, please call 715-682-7061.

If a water test indicates that the drinking water drawn from a tap in your home contains lead above 15 ppb, then you should take the following precautions:

- Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in a faucet has gone unused for more than 6 hours. The longer water resides in your home's plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder,

usually about 15–30 seconds. If your house has a lead service line to the water main, you may have to flush the water for a longer time, perhaps one minute, before drinking. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of your home's plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your family's health. It usually uses less than one or 2 gallons of water. To conserve water, fill a couple of bottles for drinking water after flushing the tap, and whenever possible use the first flush water to wash the dishes or water the plants. If you live in a high-rise building, letting the water flow before using it may not work to lessen your risk from lead. The plumbing systems have more, and sometimes larger pipes than smaller buildings. Ask your landlord for help in locating the source of the lead and for advice on reducing the lead level.

- Do not cook with, or drink water from the hot water tap. Hot water can dissolve more lead more quickly than cold water. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and heat it on the stove. Also, note that boiling water does NOT reduce lead levels.
- Remove loose lead solder and debris from the plumbing materials installed in newly constructed homes, or homes in which the plumbing has recently been replaced, by removing the faucet strainers from all taps and running the water from 3 to 5 minutes. Thereafter, periodically remove the strainers and flush out any debris that has accumulated over time.
- If your copper pipes are joined with lead solder that has been installed illegally since it was banned in Wisconsin on September 24, 1984, notify the plumber who did the work and request that he or she replace the lead solder with lead-free solder. Lead solder looks dull gray, and when scratched with a key looks shiny. In addition, notify the department of natural resources about the violation.
- Determine whether or not the service line that connects your home or apartment to the water main is made of lead. The best way to determine if your service line is made of lead is by either hiring a licensed plumber to inspect the line or by contacting the plumbing contractor who installed the line. You can identify the plumbing contractor by checking the

city's record of building permits which should be maintained in the files of the City of Ashland Planning & Development Department. A licensed plumber can at the same time check to see if your home's plumbing contains lead solder, lead pipes or pipe fittings that contain lead. The public water system that delivers water to your home should also maintain records of the materials located in the distribution system. If the service line that connects your dwelling to the water main contributes more than 15 ppb to drinking water, after our comprehensive treatment program is in place, we are required to replace the portion of the line we own. If the line is only partially owned by the City of Ashland, Ashland Water Utility, we are required to provide the owner of the privately-owned portion of the line with information on how to replace the privately-owned portion of the service line, and offer to replace that portion of the line at the owner's expense. If we replace only the portion of the line that we own, we also are required to notify you in advance and provide you with information on the steps you can take to minimize exposure to any temporary increase in lead levels that may result from the partial replacement, to take a follow-up sample at our expense from the line within 72 hours after the partial replacement, and to mail or otherwise provide you with the results of that sample within three business days of receiving the results. Acceptable replacement alternatives include copper, steel, iron and plastic pipes.

- Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. DO NOT attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.
- Replace fixtures that are known to contribute lead to drinking water with "lead-free" fixtures. An amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act that updates the definition of "lead free", and reduces the amount of lead allowed in some plumbing fixtures becomes effective in 2014. Products that meet this new definition will be clearly marked as "lead free".

The steps described above will reduce the lead concentrations in your drinking water. However, if a water test indicates that the drinking water coming from your tap contains lead concentrations in excess of 15 ppb after flushing, or after we have completed our actions to minimize lead levels, then you may want to take the following additional measures:

- Purchase or lease a home treatment device. Home treatment devices are limited in that each unit treats only the water that flows from the faucet to which it is connected, and all of the devices require periodic maintenance and replacement. Devices such as reverse osmosis systems or distillers can effectively remove lead from your drinking water. Some activated carbon filters may reduce lead levels at the tap, however all lead reduction claims should be investigated. Be sure to check the actual performance of a specific home treatment device before and after installing the unit.
- Purchase bottled water for drinking and cooking.
- We are investigating the reason for the elevated lead levels in drinking water, and will take corrective actions, which may include:
 - Installing corrosion control treatment
 - Removing lead service lines
 - Other actions as deemed appropriate
- You can consult a variety of sources for additional information. Your family doctor or pediatrician can perform a blood test for lead and provide you with information about the health effects of lead. WI Department of Health and Human Services at 877-696-6775 or the Ashland County Health and Human Services Department 715-682-7004 can provide you with information about the health effects of lead and how you can have your child's blood tested.

The following is a list of some state approved laboratories in your area that you can call to have your water tested for lead.

State Lab of Hygiene 465 Henry Mall Madison, WI 53706 800-442-4618	Northern Lake Service 400 N. Lake Ave Crandon, WI 54520 715-478-2777
Davy Laboratories PO Box 2076 LaCrosse, WI 54602 608-782-3130	Commercial Testing Lab 514 Main St Colfax, WI 800-962-5227

For more information, call us at 715-682-7061, or visit our Web site at www.coawi.org.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home or building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Information and statements contained in this Public Education are true and correct and have been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, format and deadline requirements of Subchapter II of ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code.

Chanz Green, Utility Operations Manager
Ashland Water Utility
2020 6th Street East
Ashland, WI 54806
715-682-7061

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Reducing Mowing in the City of Ashland through perennial, low mow, and Native Planting (*Ortman*)

RECOMMENDATION:

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Councilor Ortman

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

At the March 27, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council discussed possible ways to reduce mowing within the city, and voted unanimously to move towards replacing grass in the medians of Ellis Ave with ground cover, perennials or other plants that would not require mowing. There was also a unanimous vote on a motion directing staff to look into reduced mowing and alternatives to grass.

Reducing mowing has the benefit of cost savings in terms of staff time, maintenance of equipment, and gas. There are environmental benefits to reduce fossil fuel use, and increase habitat for wildlife, especially pollinators, if certain plantings are utilized. Native plants often have deeper root systems which increase infiltration of rain water, slowing the flow and reducing the volume of storm water coming into the municipal system.

This agenda item is meant as a discussion and could include possible action to move forward with a plan for reduced mowing. Council could refer this item to the Public Works and/or Parks and Recreation committees.