

**ROSEMOUNT CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS
AUGUST 18, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the Rosemount City Council and Utility Commission was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5:00 PM. in Rosemount Council Chambers, 2875 145th Street West.

Mayor Weisensel called the meeting to order with Councilmembers Freske, Essler and Klimpel along with Utility Commissioners Greg Johnson, Laura Miller and Gerd Claubaugh. Councilmember Theisen was absent.

DISCUSSION

a. Review of Gross Alpha Mitigation Options

Mayor Weisensel noted the purpose of the joint meeting between the City Council and Utility Commission is to take another step towards deciding on solutions to Gross Alpha.

Mr. Egger, Public Works Director, provided an update on Well No. 8 and Gross Alpha, noting the city has relied on Well No. 8 very minimally. The rolling annual average of Gross Alpha is below Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Standards, however MDH confirms a solution is still required. Mr. Egger discussed the initial set of solutions shared at a community meeting in June; minimize use of Well No. 8, blend Well No. 8 and Well No. 9 water sources, water treatment plant at Well No. 8 site or water treatment plant at Well No. 12 site near Boulder Trail/Business Parkway.

Since then, staff and our engineering consultant have narrowed the set of solutions; blend Well No. 8 and Well No. 9 water sources (approximately 2 million dollars) or a water treatment plant at Well No. 12 site (approximately 36-40 million dollars). The blending solution advantages include lower costs, short construction timeline, trunk water main along this stretch can also serve as first phase of future transmission main to a water treatment plant at Well No. 12 site.

A water treatment plant solution advantages include provides treatment to several wells of water, can be configured to remove several different contaminants. The challenges are that this is the most expensive option and treatment is not required currently to meet Minnesota Department Health standards, meaning this solution would be an elective option.

Councilmember Freske questioned why replacing Well No. 8 is not a good solution? Staff responded the lead time (3-4 years) and the cost of doing so is approximately double the blending solution and in addition, the city is not at a capacity to need that.

Councilmember Klimpel questioned if the water treatment plant would help with manganese? Mr. Egger noted, the blending will assist with manganese as well, however it will not remove everything from the water stream, rather blends to lower the concentration.

Commissioner Clabaugh questioned in thinking long term, will there be a need for a water treatment

plant as the city continues to grow? Mr. Egger noted a water treatment plant is not based on demand, it is more a regulatory option.

Commissioner Miller questioned whether staff has a preferred solution? Mr. Egger stated if Council chose the blending solution, there are options to upstage that into a water treatment plant if needed. This option would allow staff to monitor the outputs over time before jumping into the next stage. Our third-party engineers also suggest the blending opportunity based on what they've seen before in their professional experience.

Councilmember Essler questioned the status of neighboring cities who have the need for a water treatment plant, questioning what drove them to move forward with a treatment plant. Mr. Egger could only speak to his familiarity with Hastings, noting Hastings is dealing with an ongoing PFAS issue. There are different motives for each city considering a water treatment plant, i.e. community decision, soften water, etc. Mr. Egger confirmed the MDH does not consider this an immediate emergency. Councilmember Essler stated he is less interested in spending 40 million dollars if there were a possible solution that would cost much less.

Councilmember Freske requested staff do additional research at neighboring communities to get a better understanding of the trends and forecast for a water treatment plant to see if it makes sense financially to do a water treatment plant right away.

Councilmember Klimpel is interested in the blending solution, however worried this may be a short-term solution. Councilmember Klimpel and Commissioner Miller requested more data to better understand the cost breakdown of the blending solution.

Commissioner Clabaugh stated the utility fund has a healthy set of reserves and noted the City has done a lot of financial planning over the years for a potential need of a water treatment plant.

Mr. Egger further discussed the financial impacts; blending solution could be paid in cash through the water capital fund. a water treatment plant could be 100% financed, 50% cash/50% financing or the maximum amount of cash (approximately 25 million) with the remainder financed. Mr. Egger also mentioned the other future projects that may need financing a water tower in 2030 and Well No 18 in the late 2030's. Mr. Egger stated it will cost approximately \$250,000 to run a water treatment plant annually and noted the current utility model would not change to cover this.

City Administrator Martin stated on behalf of Councilmember Theisen, he is interested in both options and doesn't want to rush this and is interested in further financial modeling.

Mayor Weisensel stated he is in favor of the blending option with the water treatment plant to be considered and bid ready for when needed.

Councilmember Freske agreed with Mayor Weisensel and stated in addition would like to get a better understanding on the trends for needing a water treatment plant. Councilmember Freske noted the City has been saving for a water treatment plant and doesn't want the price of a water treatment plant to double if we don't proceed right away with the project.

Councilmember Klimpel agreed with Councilmember Freske noting she is not opposed to a water

treatment plant but is worried about a short-term solution for the blending solution.

Councilmember Essler stated this is a hard balance between being a steward of taxpayer money and the safety of our water, as there is a large difference in the financial investment between the two.

Councilmember Essler was interested in Mayor Weisensel's request of getting a water treatment plant bid ready.

Commissioner Johnson liked the idea of a water treatment plant to address the manganese concern as well.

Commissioner Miller also liked the idea of a water treatment plant to remove any other potentially harmful chemicals. Commissioner Miller is in favor of financing and cash in hand over debt. In addition, would like a better understanding of the cost by line item of the blending solution as that equipment could be used towards a water treatment plant.

Commissioner Clabaugh stated the blending solution could be a quick win to immediately respond and address the issue while taking the steps to continue to plan for a water treatment plant.

Staff confirmed they will continue to explore the options and respond to the questions asked in September when the budget is further discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council and Utility Commission at the special council meeting and upon a motion by Weisensel the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Fasbender

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City Clerk