

## **MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE WELLINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL**

**Wellington Village Hall  
12300 Forest Hill Blvd.  
Wellington, Florida 33414**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, a Regular Meeting of the Wellington Council was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 commencing at 7:00 p.m. at Wellington Village Hall, 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33414.

Council Members present: Anne Gerwig, Mayor; John T. McGovern, Vice Mayor; Michael Drahos, Councilman; Michael Napoleone, Councilman; and Tanya Siskind, Councilwoman.

Advisors to the Council: Paul Schofield, Manager; Laurie Cohen, Esq., Attorney; Jim Barnes, Assistant Manager; Tanya Quickel, Director of Administrative and Financial Services; and Rachel R. Callovi, Village Clerk.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Gerwig called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. INVOCATION** – Geraldo Vieira, Minister, Pentecostals of the Palm Beaches, Wellington, delivered the invocation.
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Schofield indicated staff recommended approval of the Agenda as presented.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGovern, seconded by Councilman Napoleone, and unanimously passed (5-0), to approve the Agenda as presented.**

### **5. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

- A. 16-0248** PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT RESOLUTION TO AWILDA RODRIGUEZ BY DEBRA R. BUFF, MMC, SOUTHEAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF CITY CLERKS (FACC)

Mr. Schofield introduced the item.

On behalf of the Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC), Debra Buff, Southeast District Director, and Chevelle Nubin, President, presented Ms. Rodriguez with a Resolution acknowledging her retirement after serving the Village of Wellington for 32 years.

At this time, Mayor Gerwig read a Proclamation from the Village of Wellington recognizing Ms. Rodriguez and many of her career accomplishments at the Village.

Ms. Rodriguez expressed her sincere appreciation to the Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC), to the Wellington Councils she has served, to her coworkers, and to the leadership and guidance of Mr. Schofield.

Mr. Schofield also expressed his sincere appreciation of Ms. Rodriguez and thanked her for making his time at the Village more rewarding.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. 16-0253** MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WELLINGTON COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2016
- B. 15-1012** AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW AN EXISTING CONTRACT WITH PORT CONSOLIDATED, INC. FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL
- C. 15-1019** AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE VILLAGE'S INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE (IVR) SYSTEM
- D. 15-1113** AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF A THREE (3) TON VIBRATORY COMPACTOR
- E. 16-0218** AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT WITH JONES AWNINGS & CANVAS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A CANOPY AT THE WELLINGTON AMPHITHEATER

Mr. Schofield stated staff recommended adoption of the Consent Agenda as presented.

**A motion was made by Councilman Napoleone, seconded by Councilman Drahos, and unanimously passed (5-0), approving the Consent Agenda as presented.**

## **7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. 15-1136** ORDINANCE NO. 2016-06 (CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR IN SECTION 2-292 "REMOVAL OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS")  
  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, 2-292 ENTITLED "REMOVAL OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS" TO CLARIFY THE NUMBER OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES THAT COULD RESULT IN REMOVAL AND TO CORRECT THE LAST SENTENCE OF SUBSECTION (A); PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Schofield introduced the item. Ms. Callovi read the Ordinance by title.

### Public Hearing

A motion was made by Councilman Napoleone, seconded by Councilman Drahos, and unanimously passed (5-0) to open the Public Hearing.

There being no public comments, a motion was made by Vice Mayor McGovern, seconded by Councilman Drahos, and unanimously passed (5-0) to close the Public Hearing.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGovern, seconded by Councilman Napoleone, and unanimously passed (5-0) to approve Ordinance No. 2016-06 (Correction of Scrivener's Error in Section 2-292 "Removal of Board and Committee Members") on First Reading as presented.**

At this point, Mr. Schofield indicated two comment cards were received from the public which did not relate to this ordinance.

1. Christian Schoemig, 1555 Grumond Court, Wellington. Mr. Schoemig handed the Clerk some pictures for the record. He wanted to start a conversation on what could be done around the perimeter of the mall to enable pedestrians, bicyclists and people in wheelchairs to safely make it to the bus stop.

Mr. Schofield stated Mr. Barnes would get his contact information, so they could have a conversation. Mayor Gerwig indicated the Village finds out where paths need to be when people bring situations like this to their attention.

2. Bruce Tumin, 752 Lake Wellington Drive, Wellington.
  - Mr. Tumin thanked the Council for reappointing him to the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals. He stated Section 2.328A states the board shall consist of seven regular members and they only have three. He asked the Village Attorney at their ethics training course last week if they even had a board, but she did not provide an answer.
  - Mr. Tumin indicated Section 2.327 talks about the powers of the board and includes creating variances to the technical code. He requested that Council consider the national standards that Homeland Security recommends concerning the means of egress from within their homes by creating a variance to the existing Florida Building Code and Florida Fire Prevention Code that demands the same requirement for burglar bars as for hurricane shutters. Mr. Tumin provided the Clerk with some information for the record.

Mayor Gerwig thanked Mr. Tumin for serving on the Construction Board of Adjustment & Appeals. She stated Council will make the other appointments to the board.

## **8. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **A. 16-0194 DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC MEETING ON FLUORIDATION OF WELLINGTON'S DRINKING WATER**

Mr. Schofield introduced the item. He stated Mr. Riebe would be making the staff presentation. He indicated Council was provided with an amended set of operating rules. He read them into the record and said a decision needed to be made on items 2 and 3.

Referring to a question about notice, Mr. Schofield stated this meeting was noticed on May 25, 2016. He said no individual invitations were sent out and no one was specifically asked to attend. He indicated the Village was contacted by the Fluoride Action Network on May 31, 2016, Dr. Johnny Johnson on June 9, 2016, and Dr. Paul Connett on June 19, 2016.

Mayor Gerwig asked if someone from the Fluoride Action Network was present. Naomi Flack stated she was on the Advisory Committee. She said she lives in Palm Beach Gardens and has

written some e-mails to the Council. She explained the people who are opposed to fluoridation were never told they could have someone speak for fifteen minutes or she would have paid to bring in an expert. She stated everything published indicated each speaker would have three minutes, so that should apply to everyone.

Mayor Gerwig stated she disagreed, because all of their meetings have been held publicly and this has been discussed openly. She asked Ms. Flack if she would be willing to speak on behalf of the Fluoride Action Network. Ms. Flack reiterated, for the record, that there was never a public announcement about speaking for fifteen minutes.

Mr. Schofield indicated the requirements for the announcement were met, as the meeting has been published and posted on the website. He stated the Village has complied with every notice regulation. He mentioned an e-mail was sent from Dr. Johnson to Dr. Connett on June 4, 2016, advising of this meeting and specifically asking about time. Ms. Flack stated that Dr. Johnson does not represent Wellington and the letter did not indicate Dr. Johnson would be given fifteen minutes, or anyone would be given fifteen minutes, as he simply inquired if Dr. Connett would be attending. Mr. Schofield indicated no one was promised fifteen minutes.

Ms. Flack asked Mayor Gerwig about a poll favoring fluoridation. Mayor Gerwig stated that poll was not done by the Village.

Ms. Flack asked that a proper forum be held, so Dr. Connett could attend and debate Dr. Johnson.

At this time, Mr. Riebe began the staff presentation. He indicated this was the same presentation that was given in 2014. He reviewed the national history of fluoridation starting from the 1900's with the research on benefits of fluoridation through to 2013 with 70% of the U.S. population receiving fluoridated drinking water, which is about the same percentage today. He stated the history of fluoridation in Wellington began October 26, 1999 when the Wellington Council voted to fluoridate the drinking water. From 2000 to 2014 Wellington fluoridated its drinking water without receiving any reported adverse health effects, operational or water quality issues, or personal or health effects by Village personnel. On January 28, 2014, the Council voted to discontinue fluoridation, as it was thought to be in the best interest of public health at the time.

Mr. Riebe stated Fluorine was the thirteenth most abundant element on earth. He said the natural form of fluoride is Fluorapatite, which is the source of Wellington's fluoride. He explained fluoride naturally occurs in Wellington's ground water and roughly 0.2 mg per liter is in the raw water. He explained reverse osmosis (RO) and combination of lime softening is used as part of the treatment process to reduce the fluoride level, so it is about 0.12 mg per liter in the finished/treated water without fluoridating it.

Mr. Riebe explained that Fluorapatite is mined in central Florida and Fluorosilicic/Hydrofluorosilicic Acid is used by the Village. He said the Fluorosilicic Acid was manufactured by Mosaic and distributed by Harsco based in Tampa. He indicated the product is National Science Foundation (NSF) 60 certified, which are the only type of chemicals that can be used in water production. He stated the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hazard rating is a 3, so it is pretty toxic in its concentrated form. He noted all Wellington water plant personnel are trained to handle the produce safely and deal with spills. He said the material is stored in a containment area.

Mr. Riebe spoke to Fluorine in the human body, based on his review of a significant amount of literature from the American Medical Association (AMA), Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), etc. He said low levels of fluoride promote healthy bone structures, promote healthy/strong teeth, and prevent dental cavities. High levels of fluoride can have adverse effects and lead to dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis, and other health effects based on the reports in the literature.

Mr. Riebe stated the water industry is heavily regulated, as it should be, because it is something that people consume every in order to survive. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the lead agency. In Florida, the DEP or Florida Department of Environmental Protection takes the role of the EPA in Florida. The Palm Beach County Health Department is the local agency to which the Village sends its monthly operating reports which includes all of the analysis and data, as they do the sanitary surveys and are the day to day oversight of the Wellington facilities.

Mr. Riebe reiterated that fluoride in Wellington's raw water naturally occurs at about 0.2 mg per liter and that level is reduced through the treatment process to about 0.12 mg per liter. He stated the maximum level of fluoride permitted is 4 mg per liter, which is the primary drinking water standard set by the EPA based on a variety of analysis, tests, health studies, etc. He said the maximum level of fluoride in Wellington's drinking water when it was fluoridated was 0.68 mg per liter, so roughly ten times less than the primary drinking water standard and less than the 0.7 mg per liter now required by the regulations. He noted fluoridation of drinking water is not required for treatment processes, as it was added by the Village for a public health benefit and nothing bad would happen if it was stopped. He explained the fluoride is monitored every two to four hours, so they know the levels at real time and can make adjustments. They also have instrumentation alarms and an automatic shutdown for storage and feed equipment if the levels get out of range, either too high or too low.

Mr. Riebe indicated Wellington's fluoride levels are 0.5 to 0.68 mg per liter, and the primary drinking water standard is 4 mg per liter and the secondary drinking water standard is 2 mg per liter. He said the secondary drinking water has more cosmetic effects, which is where some health effects or dental fluorosis may happen.

Mr. Riebe showed Council a copy of the Consumer Confidence Report from 2012, when the Village was actually feeding fluoride. He noted the Village was currently mailing their 2015 report, as required every year, to report what is in their drinking water. He said they were well below the primary drinking water standards. He stated their drinking water is extremely safe and tastes good, as he drinks it every day as a QC test.

Mr. Riebe mentioned an issue had come up about arsenic and other contaminants as they feed hydrofluorosilicic acid. He explained that chemical has to meet certain standards as part of the NSF 60/ANSI certification process. He stated the Village sent some of their hydrofluorosilicic acid to a lab for testing according to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) B703, which is a very prescriptive analysis of that type of material. As a result, all of the potential contaminants were below the detection limit.

Mayor Gerwig asked why the hydrofluorosilicic acid was sent to the lab for testing. Mr. Riebe stated they wanted a third party verification of the material, even though it is not required. He said the Village does that as a matter of practice when a shipment is received to ensure they are getting what they paid for and it actually meets the standards to make sure they are in compliance. He indicated the hydrofluorosilicic acid complies with NSF 60, AWWA standards and EPA standards.

Mr. Riebe explained arsenic is in the Periodic Table and one of the elements on earth. He stated

water is the universal solvent, as it dissolves things it comes into contact with, which is the unique property about water. He said the naturally occurring arsenic level in Wellington's ground water is about 0.36 mcg per liter and the maximum level of arsenic permitted in drinking water is 10 mcg per liter, which is the primary drinking water standard. When the Village goes through its treatment process, some of the arsenic is removed and it ends up at around 0.19 mcg per liter. He said the standard is 10 mcg per liter, so they are roughly fifty times less than the standard if they do not add fluoride.

Mr. Riebe acknowledged that hydrofluorosilicic acid does have some arsenic in it, as it is a naturally occurring element in the earth. But when the Village fed hydrofluorosilicic acid to fluoridate the drinking water, the arsenic levels were still below the non-detect levels based on laboratory analyses done in 2012, 2013 and 2014. In other words, when the fluoride was added, the amount of arsenic was less than the detection limit. He noted they receive an analysis with every delivery.

Mr. Riebe stated if the Village were to restart fluoridation, the calculated amount of arsenic in the drinking water would be between 0.25 and 0.34 mcg per liter, way below the primary drinking water standard. He said the referenced dosage rates for arsenic were set by the EPA for various elements and the standard is based on consumption, so it is milligrams per kilogram per day. He explained if a person weighing 140 lbs. consumed two liters of water per day (8 oz. of water x 8 glasses), that would result in approximately 0.5 to 0.68 mcg per day, which is much less than the 19.1 mcg per day that is deemed safe by the EPA. He indicated it constitutes between 2.6% and 3.5% of their daily intake threshold for arsenic.

Mayor Gerwig asked if arsenic came from sources other than water. Mr. Riebe stated one could get it from wine or brown rice. He said 100 parts per billion, or 100 mg of a mcg per liter, is the allowable arsenic level in a bottle of wine in Canada and it is 200 in Europe. He indicated the Village's drinking water is at 10, so it is very low and even lower with fluoridation.

Mr. Riebe provided a list of organizations who say that drinking water should be fluoridated, including the American Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, World Health Organization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Medical Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Surgeon General, American Water Works Association, Florida Palm Beach County Health Department. He also provided a list of organizations who say that drinking water should not be fluoridated, including the Fluoride Action Network, Sierra Club and various local action groups, health professionals and individuals.

Mr. Riebe stated the communities that fluoridate in Palm Beach County include Palm Beach County Water Utilities, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Glades Utility (which includes Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay), Gulfstream, and West Palm Beach. He said the total population served by fluoridated water is 725,000. He indicated that was about 50%, as the population in Palm Beach County was approximately 1.4 million. He noted all of the communities in Broward County fluoridated their drinking water.

Mr. Riebe reviewed some of the common concerns:

1. **Why add fluoride and poison water that is pure?** The contaminant levels are extremely low and well below any maximum contaminant levels (MCL) that have been set, because of the Village's treatment processes and attention to detail. The opposition's perspective is that fluoridation introduces unwanted contaminants into the drinking water.

2. **Has fluoridation been linked to dental/skeletal fluorosis?** The proponents' perspective is that fluoridation is one of several possible contributing factors to an increase in the incidence of mild dental fluorosis in children, therefore the maximum fluoridation levels were reset to 0.7 mg per liter. The opponents' position is that fluoridation contributes to both skeletal and dental fluorosis.
3. **Is fluoridation linked to cancer?** Based on the literature, there is no strong evidence linking fluoridation to cancer. The opponents argue that fluoride does contribute or does increase the risk of cancer.
4. **Is fluoridation linked to other health issues?** Based on the literature and the CDC, the weight of the peer-reviewed scientific evidence does not support an association between water fluoridation and any adverse health effects. The opponents think fluoridation causes a variety of adverse health effects.
5. **Is fluoridation linked to lower IQ's?** The proponents say no and the opponents say yes.
6. **Why drink fluoride if it works topically?** The proponents believe it is important to ingest fluoride, because topical use has a short-term effect. Water fluoridation remains highly recommended by all health organizations regardless of socioeconomic status. The opponents argue that a variety of toothpaste, mouthwashes, etc. are available and fluoride is readily available, so water fluoridation is outdated.
7. **Is fluoridation a medical treatment?** From a dental/medical profession perspective, fluoridation is one of several techniques to reduce the incidence of cavities. The opponents' perspective is that fluoridation is a medical treatment and should be regulated as such, thus it should not be imposed on the population at large.
8. **Is fluoridation cost effective?** Based on an analysis the Village did in 2014, fluoridation costs about 0.63 cents per person, per year. Toothpaste and a toothbrush cost about \$40.00 per year.
9. **Is fluoridation outdated?** The proponents say water fluoridation is not outdated.
10. **Is fluoridation moral?** From the proponents' perspective, fluoridation is moral because it provides for good dental health. The opponents say fluoridation is immoral, because it is imposed on everyone.

Mr. Riebe indicated the presentation was put together so everyone could see the pros and cons or both sides of the story.

Vice Mayor McGovern asked if there was a staff recommendation. Mr. Riebe stated staff's recommendation is to restart fluoridation in Wellington, because it is a benefit to public health and actually benefits the people. He indicated this was staff's same recommendation in 2014.

### **Spoke Against Fluoridation**

Mayor Gerwig explained Mr. Rodney Wollman would be speaking for fifteen minutes against fluoridating the water. In addition, he could call upon someone else to speak during his time as well.

Rodney Wollman, 11371 Mainsail Court, Wellington. Mr. Wollman spoke against the fluoridation of Wellington's drinking water. He stated he was happy back on January 29, 2014 when fluoride was removed from the water, as he would not have to buy bottled water or get his water from different sources, because he did not trust the tap water. He believed nothing more horrific was going on in this county today and that it was like a slow kill, because everyone is in the hospital or has dementia, autism, diabetes, birth defects. He indicated everything he was saying tonight was not being exaggerated, as it is in thousands of sources from Harvard University to the CDC and other government organizations.

Mr. Wollman talked about how:

- Fluoride is a toxic waste product that comes from fertilizer and the aluminum and weapons industry.
- Researchers came up with a diabolical idea to find some advantageous use for it based on fake studies, because it was too expensive to dispose of.
- Only one-half of 1% of the fluoridated water actually gets ingested, so 99.5% of the toxic waste goes back into the water supply and destroys everything.
- 97% of Western Europe refuses to fluoridate their water and that non-fluoridated countries have less tooth decay, according to the World Health Organization.
- Fluoride is an endocrine disrupter and builds up in the bones, brain, and peroneal gland, according to a Harvard study.
- 40% of American teenagers saw visible signs of exposure to fluoride, according to the CDC, which is called dental fluorosis.
- The CDC warns of health risks in babies and baby formulas.
- The back of the toothpaste states “if more than a pea size amount is swallowed call a poison center immediately,” and a pea size amount of toothpaste contains ¼ of a milligram of fluoride that is the same exact amount of fluoride that is in an 8 oz. glass of water.
- Billions of dollars were used to form the American Dental Association (ADA), so fluoride would become associated with the scientific progress and force its use in local municipalities.
- Fluoride was found to be a carcinogen in 1990 by the National Cancer Institute.
- The standard was brought down from 1.2 mg to 0.07 mg, because people were getting “too much of a good thing.”
- Fluoride causes osteoporosis and arthritis, and lowers intelligence by five to twenty points.
- Fluoride is one of the main ingredients in many roach and rat poisons as well as Prozac.
- Fluoride makes people docile, so it was first used in Nazi concentration camps and to make sarin nerve gas to stop prisoners from trying to escape.
- The United States is one of only eight countries in the entire developed world that fluoridates more than 50% of its water, and it is 70% in the U.S.
- China will not allow water fluoridation because it is too toxic and causes damage.
- The waste product from the phosphate fertilizer industry is directly shipped to the U.S. where they lovingly add it to their water supply.
- The fluoride that is added to the water is not pharmaceutical grade.
- The classified files of the Manhattan Project and the Atomic Energy Commission show the original motivation for promoting fluoride water to the United States was to protect the bomb, aluminum and other fluoride polluting industries from liability.
- Sodium fluoride used to fluoridate water supplies in the U.S. came from Alcoa.
- The CDC claims that for more than 65 years, water fluoridation has gone through extensive scientific studies and refused to assess its public health benefits and risks.
- The CDC states that fluoride should be limited and not given to babies in formulas.
- Fluoride’s predominant action is the surface of the tooth and not from inside the body.
- Good oral health and strong healthy teeth are not the result of drinking fluoride.

Mr. Wollman asked everyone to look at all of the sources, because this is a big decision and the effects of fluoride are a lot worse than what he was stating.



## **Spoke For Fluoridation**

Dr. William Staten, lead dentist at the Palm Beach County Health Department in charge of dental matters, introduced himself. He summarized a policy statement that was provided to him by their director, Dr. Alina Alonso. He said she could not be there this evening, but she wanted him to express her strong commitment to community water fluoridation. He stated the policy statements says that the Department of Health is strongly committed to community water fluoridation. It speaks of fluoridation's long history that was officially endorsed by the State Board of Health in 1949 as a safe, effective and economical means of reducing tooth decay and it continues to protect approximately 14 million people in Florida today. He said it is doubtful that any other public health measure has undergone as much research, epidemiological study and intense public scrutiny than water fluoridation. He stated it was endorsed by a major health organization such as the CDC as safe and effected. He indicated the last statement in the policy says that along with the overwhelming majority of the world's health organizations and leaders within the scientific community, the Florida Department of Health firmly supports and continues to recommend community water fluoridation as the most economical and effective means to control the major public health problem of dental caries.

Dr. Staten explained the Health Department is striving to promote the health and wellbeing of all citizens in Palm Beach County. He said prevention is an important part of their strategy, including matters concerning oral health. He discussed how:

- It is important to educate individuals and parents that dental decay is a largely preventable disease, and that to be healthy and enjoy a quality of life means having a healthy mouth.
- Four important factors prevent and maintain a healthy mouth: 1) good oral hygiene; 2) proper nutrition; 3) from a public health aspect, access to fluoridated water; and 4) access to a dental home.
- Ingesting water at optimally fluoridated levels of 0.7 mg per liter supports strong teeth, both as they form and throughout life, by topical effect directly and in saliva.
- Good oral hygiene, brushing with a fluoridated toothpaste and flossing, add to that preventative measure.
- Proper nutrition reduces the amount of sugars in the diet that feed the bacteria that causes decay.
- Everyone needs a dental home for regular visits to check for problems and catch them ahead of time.
- Fluoride is most effective on the smooth surfaces of the teeth, and along with sealants, provides a one-two punch against decay in children.
- Decay rates will be greater and/or decay will be more severe if any one of the four factors is missing.
- Fluoride at optimal levels provided through a community water system should be considered a foundation for all preventive measures for oral health.
- Fluoride requires no effort, time or expense from the individual and it is effective for all people regardless of age, race and income level in reducing incidents and severity of decay.
- Fluoride reduces the expense of dental care over a lifetime, whether that be to the individual or a taxpayer.
- Decay is present in communities in Palm Beach County and in some populations at unacceptable levels, not that any level of decay should be considered acceptable.
- Recent observations from their mobile dental program showed that up to 60% of low income children have had decay by age 7, with an active decay rate of 35% to 37%.

Dr. Staten stated community water fluoridation lowers the baseline of decay in a community. He said it has been proven and reviewed numerous times to be safe and effective, and it is the most economical way to reduce the decay burden of a community and a foundation for prevention. He stated the Department of Health and Palm Beach County, otherwise known as the Palm Beach County Health Department, supports community water fluoridation.

Dr. Johnny Johnson, President of the American Fluoridation Society, introduced himself. He stated he has no disclosures to mention, as he was there on his own accord. He said he received no financial compensation. He indicated he also speaks in many areas of the State for the Florida Dental Association and coaches the Florida Action Team, plus he is in private practice as a pediatric dentist of 30 years.

Dr. Johnson stated water fluoridation was still necessary in this day and age. He said systematic reviews show that when fluoridation is started in an area, cavity rates drop almost 29%. He indicated current studies also show that when water fluoridation is stopped, the cavity rates begin to climb rapidly. He stated Calgary, Ontario stopped water fluoridation in 2011 and is currently seeing a huge increase in cavities. Unfortunately, Wellington is at that point and will start to see it as well.

Dr. Johnson explained how:

- Fluoridation works on top of the tooth and gets inside the tooth when fluoridated water is swallowed.
- Fluoride in the saliva bathes the teeth all day long to prevent adults and children from cavities.
- Dental fluorosis is a surface change in a tooth's appearance and 97% that is seen from fluoridated water is very mild or questionable.
- Severe fluorosis from fluoridated water does not occur in adults and only occurs under the age of eight years when children are developing their teeth.
- They do not debate fluoridation or any other scientific issue in a public forum, as expert panels meet and discuss it for many months to years.
- Fluoridation is safe for everyone to drink and absolutely has no adverse health effects to anyone.
- Fluoridation is effective in reducing over 25% of a person's cavities over their lifetime.
- Fluoridation benefits everyone in a community regardless of socioeconomic status, age, race, ethnicity, level of education, or access to dental care.
- One dollar invested in community water fluoridation typically returns \$38 to \$43 or more in reduced dental cost per person, per year.
- Expert committees and systematic reviews all agree the evidence does not support an association between community water fluoridation and any adverse health effect or systemic disorder.
- The Community Preventative Services Task Force was created in 1996 by Congress to independently study several community issues and to make recommendations to communities as a community guide. The group recommended water fluoridation on strong evidence of its effectiveness in reducing cavities across populations and this was reaffirmed in 2013.
- The Cochrane Oral Health Group agrees that water fluoridation works.
- The 2006 National Academies of the National Research Science Council studied the fluoride levels in the U.S. and concluded there were effects on teeth or severe fluorosis at 4 mg per liter. However, there were no muscle changes, cancer, IQ, thyroid problems, GI

issues, genotoxicity, or other health issues at 4 mg per liter, and Wellington fluoridates at 0.7 mg per liter or parts per million. At 2 mg per liter, the severe fluorosis goes away.

- The weighted evidence is that no respected organization opposes water fluoridation in the world, as everyone falls on the side that it is safe and effective.
- Some people are so opposed to water fluoridation because they truly believe it causes them harm, but all of the claims made by the opponents are false.
- In response to Dr. Paul Connett's claim of thyroid problems, a leading expert in the United States, Dr. Janet Silverstein, Pediatric Endocrinologist at the University of Florida, wrote a letter to the Brooksville City Council that stated "As a practicing endocrinologist, she was appalled at the claims that fluoridated drinking water causes clinically significant harm to the endocrine system. It does not."
- The World Health Organization data was manipulated and actually represents that, with fluoride toothpaste and rinses, cavities are going down in all countries and are reduced by another 25% if fluoridation is added.

Dr. Johnson asked Council to bring back water fluoridation to Wellington and make it a ten year commitment to save them the time, effort and cost of going through this again.

At this time, Mayor Gerwig indicated Council would receive comments from the public.

**The following people spoke in support of adding Fluoride to the water:**

1. Pamela Maldonado, 3608 Miramontes Circle, Wellington.
2. Dr. Frank Carbery, 3101 S. Ocean Blvd, Highland Beach.
3. Dr. Laurence Grayhills, 250 Professional Way, Wellington.
4. Dr. Allyn Segelman, 776 Windtree Way, Wellington.
5. Kerry Flynn, 6448 High Ridge Road, Wellington.
6. Philippe Bilger, 16351 115 Avenue, N., Jupiter.
7. Dr. Lawrence Bergman, 2165 Amesbury Circle, Wellington.
8. Dr. Michael Roseff, 9744 Woodworth Court, Wellington.
9. Bruce Tumin, 752 Lake Wellington Drive, Wellington.
10. Dr. Ken Pernezny, 753 Daffodil Drive, Wellington.
11. Dr. Tomer Haik, 3319 State Road 7, Wellington.
12. Dale Hesser, 1634 S. Club Drive, Wellington.
13. Veronica Atkinson, 13691 Ishnala Circle, Wellington.
14. Tony Fransetta, 8429 St. Johns Court, Wellington.
15. Catherine Cabanzon, 2021 Upland Road, West Palm Beach.
16. Michelle Ryan, 902 S.W. 27<sup>th</sup> Way, Boynton Beach.

**The following comment cards which supported adding fluoride into the water were read into the read by Vice Mayor McGovern:**

17. Therese Stewart, 15770 Rolling Meadows Circle, Wellington.
18. Robert Rotella, 11603 Manatee Bay Lane, Wellington.
19. Debbie Cyran, 1925 Tulip Lane, Wellington. (This card was not read into the record.)

**The following people spoke against adding fluoride to the water:**

1. Charlene Arcadipane, 15875 Rolling Meadows Circle, Wellington.
2. Cassandra Stryker, 12764 Meadow Breeze Drive, Wellington.

3. Naomi Flack, 2065 LaPorte Drive, Palm Beach Gardens.
4. Elaine McCoy, 12524 Shoreline Drive, #401, Wellington.
5. Steve Brandes, 8190 Nevis Place, Wellington.
6. John Shwiner, 13547 Brixham Street, Wellington.
7. Diane Rice, 14909 Horseshoe Trace, Wellington.
8. Lee Arcadipane, 15875 Rolling Meadows Circle, Wellington.
9. Elizabeth Moriaca, 12901 Buckland Street, Wellington.
10. Dr. Eric Cohen, 13627 Stamford Drive, Wellington.
11. Linda Elie, 2040 Galloway Trail, Wellington.
12. Kelly Thompson, 5264 Spruce View Lane, Michigan.
13. Michael Hernandez, 15540 Cedar Grove Lane, Wellington.
14. Lee Marlow, 1733 Farmington Circle, Wellington.
15. Terence Davis, 420 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Riviera Beach.
16. Thomas Blake, 1165 Raintree Lane, Wellington. .

**The following comment cards which were opposed to adding fluoride into the water were read into the record by Vice Mayor McGovern:**

17. JoAnn Johnson, 14400 Paddock Drive, Wellington.
18. Robin Hummel-Johnson, 14595 Belmont Trace, Wellington. .
19. Deidre Newton, 12495 Quercus Lane, Wellington.
20. Janine Parrish, 12083 Sunset Point Circle, Wellington.(This card was not read into the record)
21. Steven Rosenblum, 12083 Sunset Point Circle, Wellington. (This card was not read into the record.)

Councilman Napoleone asked what quality controls were in place to ensure that the fluoride put into Wellington's water, if that was the decision, is not toxic or fertilizer runoff and why Wellington would not use medical grade. Mr. Riebe explained the chemical used, hydrofluorosilicic acid, is NSF 60 certified by Harcros. The acid used is locally produced in Florida, not China. The Village sends a sample of the delivered product to the lab to confirm it is compliant with the NSF 60 certification. He stated the Village will have upgraded, state-of-the-art fluoridation facilities if that is the direction from Council. He said the water is tested continuously. The system will automatically stop feeding if anything is not within range, and the system will shut down if they over fluoridate. So there are safeguards in place.

Mr. Riebe further explained the material is stored in a bulk tank and the amount to be used is pumped into a day tank, so it is impossible to discharge the bulk tank of 4,000 gallons into the water. Multiple redundancies in technologies are used to not exceed 0.7 mg per liter. A monthly operating report is submitted to the Palm Beach County Health Department, which includes daily reporting of Wellington fluoride levels. Testing at the plant and distribution system is done every day. He stated this was something they take very seriously. They are heavily regulated and all of their operators are licensed. He indicated he is a professional engineer, is certified in wastewater, and has been doing this for 29 years.

Vice Mayor McGovern asked about the frequency of testing. Mr. Riebe stated they test throughout the day and night, whenever they are producing water, and adjust accordingly. He said they use computerized and manual systems.

Mayor Gerwig asked about fluoride in breast milk. Dr. Bergman stated a very small amount of fluoride crosses into breast milk. He indicated the new recommendations are to introduce water at six months of age for babies that are exclusively breast fed, but it is their choice to use tap

water or bottled water. He understood the rules and regulations on tap water far exceeded what was applied to bottled water, and he felt much safer drinking tap water. He said it gets difficult for pediatricians to say whether or not to use a fluoride supplement, because of where people live and the type of water they drink. However, when people say they do not have a choice because their city fluorinates the water as a public health concern, they have a choice to drink bottled water that is not fluorinated. So by fluorinating, the Village does not eliminate that choice.

Vice Mayor McGovern asked Mr. Riebe about NSF 60. Mr. Riebe explained that NSF is the National Sanitation Foundation, an organization specifically setup as a third party or agency that has the technology and expertise to certify a particular chemical, product or material. He stated the agency validates whether or not a substance, chemical or product has a certain amount of fluoride, contaminants, etc., to meet the end use of that particular product. He said the National Sanitation Foundation has scientists, Ph.D.'s and folks who are trained in that kind of work.

Councilwoman Siskind asked Mr. Riebe if the 140 lb. person was an example or a standard. Mr. Riebe stated it was an example, but the key is 0.3 mcg per kilogram. If a person weighs 10 kilograms it would be 3 mcg per day, as it is all based on weight. He said smaller people take in less water and food.

Councilwoman Siskind thanked everyone for coming this evening to express their views on community water fluoridation. She stated there are a lot of strong beliefs about this issue on both sides. She said some feel that adding fluoride to the water is causing serious health issues, while others believe it is a safe and effective method of preventing dental decay and dental disease.

Councilwoman Siskind indicated someone said to look to their own family for examples, and she indicated she actually has her own personal story and history with fluoride. She stated her brother spent the first few years of his life in Germany, because her father was in the air force and stationed there, and there was no community water fluoridation. As a result, her brother had and still has terrible problems with his teeth. The dentists and doctors told her parents a lack of fluoride was the cause. She said knowing that this could have been prevented is very disturbing to her and very detrimental to her brother and his health. She stated this was a personal issue for her as it was for many of them.

Councilwoman Siskind stated Council has been inundated with information, numerous letters, personal meetings, and websites from both sides. She said that their decision was not predetermined or pre-decided. She said they are taking this very seriously and listening to what everybody has to say. She felt, whatever the outcome is, they are making an informed decision.

Councilwoman Siskind indicated what stands out for her in this debate is that the opposition to fluoride claims everything from lower IQs in children to cancer to a multitude of other health problems, and that somehow the government or the municipalities are getting rich from adding fluoride to the water. She thought that was too much of a kitchen sink theory, with no scientific evidence to back it up. On the other hand, the proponents of community water fluoridation make one basic claim that is backed by 70 years of credible scientific evidence, which is that having an optimal level of fluoride in the drinking water prevents dental cavities, and major, credible, reliable scientific groups, such as the AMA, ADA, CDC, WHO, all endorse community water fluoridation as safe and effective. She believed that by reinstating community water fluoridation in Wellington, the Council would be doing what they are charged to do, which is to protect all of the citizens of Wellington.

Councilman Napoleone thanked everyone and stated that he appreciated all of the information

they received from the residents by e-mail, in person, and at this meeting. He stated he read it all twice and even went to the links that the e-mails were referencing. He felt after studying this, he is still not a scientist, dentist, or chemist. However, he believes at the end of tonight, he and everyone else is prepared to make an informed decision on whether or not to reinstitute fluoride into their water.

Councilman Napoleone indicated this was a public health issue and not just a matter of personal choice. He stated Council was not charged with doing what is best for a few people, but charged with doing what is best for the majority of people.

Councilman Napoleone said tonight they heard from an even split of people in favor of and against water fluoridation. He stated with the exception of Dr. Cohen, every doctor, pediatrician, dentist and dental hygienist spoke in favor of community water fluoridation. He said of all the material he has read on what fluoride could possibly cause, not a single study was tied to fluoridation at the level of 0.7 mg per liter. He indicated the studies generally talked about fluoride at much higher levels where it is naturally occurring at 2 mg or 4 mg, something much higher than what Wellington would be doing.

Councilman Napoleone stated he did not have any prepared remarks, because he came in with an open mind to listen to everyone. But the greater weight of the credible medical science comes from the Centers of Disease Control, World Health Organization, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Dental Association, etc., and there was no equally credible organization on the other side of the debate telling him they should not do it. Based upon the evidence and information he has read, he felt he had to do what is best for the majority of Wellington.

Councilman Napoleone mentioned people tell him the Council members are bought or corrupt, that they made a predetermined decision, or this is an orchestrated public forum, but that is not true. He said people were free to believe anything they want, but that is not how this Council or he operates. He stated he will make his vote when they get to it, but he felt he has enough information to make an informed decision for the best interest of Wellington.

Councilman Drahos admired the people who came out to speak, whether it was for or against fluoridation. He assured the people of Wellington that this Council went out of its way to conduct a fair forum to address this issue. He mentioned, as a trial lawyer for close to fifteen years, he has a keen sense of gamesmanship and a very low tolerance for it. He said when people come here and take the position that they were unaware or surprised by the fact that there would be an opportunity to speak tonight, he can tell them that it is not accurate. He indicated they announced to all that they would have an opportunity to come and speak. He stated from the very beginning, if more than one person needed more than three minutes, he would be willing to argue for why they needed more time. He mentioned at the last Council Meeting he stated publicly that he would meet with anybody who wanted to speak about this issue and he has done that. He not only met with people who are for fluoride, but he has met with high school students who are against it. He said it did not matter how old or young they were or what their qualifications were. As their elected official, he was going to make the time if they wanted to speak with him. He stated as recently as last night, his secretary was calling people who he thought might want to speak with him, to make sure no one could come in here and say Councilman Drahos did not give them a fair chance.

Councilman Drahos stated he was a newly elected official in Wellington. He said he campaigned for six months and knocked on countless doors, reassuring voters he would always do what he

felt was best for the people of Wellington if they voted for him. He indicated he heard mostly about the equestrian issues, but fluoride was second. He said he promised those people he would do everything in his power to bring this issue before the Council as soon as he could. He stated his promise to the people of Wellington in doing what he thinks is best for all of Wellington continues tonight with his vote in favor of fluoride.

Councilman Drahos explained why he was such an advocate for fluoridation. He stated it was not his job to be a scientist, doctor or dentist, and it was not his job to be their lawyer, although he is trained and experienced to do that. He said it was his job to speak for the people of Wellington and his approach to this job is to take in as much information as possible, be educated as well as possible on particular issues, and lean on the expertise of those he trusts as credible sources of information. From his perspective, rejecting the recommendations of the CDC, WHO, ADA, Surgeon General of the U.S., is not only irresponsible but reckless. If that was not compelling enough, every local dentist and pediatrician spoke in favor of fluoride tonight. He indicated his kids' doctor as well as their dentist are in favor of fluoride, and these are the people he entrusts with the health and safety of his own kids.

Councilman Drahos stated this very much reminded him of the vaccine debate. He remembers as new parents about nine years ago, they were visiting doctors and making decisions on whether or not to vaccinate their kids. He stated he got caught up in researching at the "University of Google" and started getting scared, as he would read about the various vaccines and the prevalence in causing autism. He said he took the time to meet with his kids' pediatrician and ask the doctor if he gave these same vaccinations to his own kids. He stated the doctor said that he would never recommend anything for his kids that he would not give his own. He allowed that doctor to vaccinate his kids, and he is thankful that he made that educated decision. He stated he was doing that tonight on behalf of all of Wellington when he votes for fluoride.

At this point, a motion was made by Vice Mayor McGovern, seconded by Councilman Napoleone, and passed (4-1), with Mayor Gerwig dissenting, to continue the meeting past 11:00 P.M.

Vice Mayor McGovern thought each of his colleagues thus far had eloquently stated why fluoride should be put back in the water in Wellington. He stated they heard from forty or so people who were almost evenly divided between pro and con, which tells them this is a difficult issue. He said each Council member has read and received many e-mails as well as an abundance of information. He believed they really listened and thought about this, as the tough decisions to protect the community at large, to protect the public health, and to protect those most at risk in their community fall to them.

Vice Mayor McGovern said the decision to readdress this issue and ultimately vote to put fluoride back in the water in Wellington is one that is backed by the best science they have today and that is all they can use. He stated the U.S. Surgeon General, Florida Surgeon General, Dr. Alonzo from the Palm Beach County Health Department, and the Department of Health and Human Services are saying, as recently as June 8, 2015 (their last publication on the subject), "water fluoridation is beneficial for reducing and controlling tooth decay and promoting oral health across the life span." He indicated in July/August 2015 the U.S. Public Health Service recommended fluoride. In addition, the report that lowered the fluoride level to 0.7 also went through all of the arguments against fluoride and still said none were backed by credible science as of today and that fluoride was the best way to prevent carries across the life span. He indicated the current Surgeon General, and almost all U. S. Surgeon Generals before, said this is the right thing to do and the thing that needs to be done. So he will vote to put fluoride back in the water.

Vice Mayor McGovern stated he has heard more about the fluoride issue from residents since the fluoride was taken out of the water. He thought it was the job of this Council to listen to their constituents. He said he also met with everyone who asked to meet with him. He stated in the end, when looking at all of the information before them, the decision has to be to protect the least among their residents and then protect all of their residents, and that is to put fluoride back in the water. He mentioned at 0.63 cents per resident, this is a good fiscal policy as well. He said for those reasons he will vote yes.

Mayor Gerwig stated she was very proud of this Council and this community. She thought they did an excellent job of having a difficult conversation. She said there was a lot of medical related information to go through. She was also proud of the staff and the Council for addressing the issue the way they have.

Mayor Gerwig indicated there was something different about the meeting when they took the fluoride out of the water. She said it was publicized as a discussion point. She stated no one thought they would make that kind of decision in one meeting without more public interaction. She said Dr. Johnson was there, but a lot of people were not interested in speaking publicly against fluoride. She said they wanted to have the debate through the internet.

Mayor Gerwig stated this Council was not arguing against anyone, as this was an argument of science. All of these trusted organizations and their own trusted medical professionals evaluated this information and came to the same conclusion. She agreed all kinds of things could be found on Google. She said the people who oppose this practice need to debate the American Medical Association, Centers for Disease Control, Surgeon General, Health and Human Services, American Dental Association, etc.

Mayor Gerwig explained her goal as mayor was to have this conversation publicly, have everyone at the table, and have everyone know what is going on. She said there will always be some who disagree with that, but that is okay. She stated it is about this community and doing what is best for all of them, which is why she was supporting this. She appreciated the conversation everyone has had, and thanked Council and staff for all of their work.

**A motion was made Vice Mayor McGovern, seconded by Councilman Drahos, and unanimously passed (5-0) to approve Resolution No. R2016-42 as presented.**

**B.        16-0246        VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES' 90<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Mr. Schofield introduced the item and asked for reaffirmation of his direction to designate Mayor Gerwig as the voting delegate at the League of Cities Annual Conference. Council confirmed that was their direction.

## **9.        PUBLIC FORUM**

1. Dr. Carmine Priore, 2572 Cooper Way, Wellington. Dr. Priore spoke in support of fluoridating Wellington's drinking water.

## **10.       ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**MR. DUNLAP:** Mr. Dunlap presented the following report:



- Mr. Dunlap indicated two memos were sent out last week:
  - The Village received a Circuit Appellate Per Curiam, affirming the Special Magistrate's order against Palm Beach Polo on the "dog park case" on the illegal lot split, in the Village's favor.
  - The Village received the final judgement last Thursday in the "access case" for Palm Beach Polo. The Village previously received a summary judgement in favor of all of their arguments in this case. After receiving the summary judgement, Village counsel filed the 57.105 motion that had been served previously and are in the midst of setting the hearing for this motion.
- He mentioned Ms. Cohen was on vacation for the rest of this week and next week, so he would be available if there were any questions.

## 11. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

**MR. SCHOFIELD:** Mr. Schofield presented the following report:

- The next regular Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- Village offices will be closed on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, in observance of the holiday.
- He encouraged all residents to come out to their Fourth of July celebration, which begins at the pool from noon to 5:00 PM, followed by festivities at Village Park starting at 6:00 PM. The fireworks will begin at 9:15 PM.

## 12. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**COUNCILMAN NAPOLEONE:** Councilman Napoleone presented the following report:

- He wished everyone a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**COUNCILMAN DRAHOS:** Councilman Drahos presented the following report:

- He looked forward to seeing everyone at the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN:** Vice Mayor McGovern presented the following report:

- He wished everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He hoped everyone would come out to the pool and Village Park for the Village's celebration.
- He wanted everyone to thank Awilda Rodriguez for her dedicated service to the Village. He believed the commendation given to her tonight was far less than what she really deserved for her 32 years of service.
- He commended Alex Wamsley, Trades Crew Chief, for being the Employee of the Month. Vice Mayor McGovern thanked Mr. Schofield for reinstating the process of regularly recognizing dedicated Wellington employees who are making a difference for the residents.
- He hoped each Council member would look at the issue of paid family leave for Village employees, as they enter into the budgeting process. He said he has asked staff to bring them recommendations and cost estimates. He thought paid family leave would be the right thing to do, if the Village wanted to be a forward thinking, progressive community. He believed it could be done efficiently and cost effectively.

**COUNCILWOMAN SISKIND:** Councilwoman Siskind presented the following report:

- She wished everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- She stated she will just be getting back from the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Convention in Orlando, where she will be volunteering and hopefully bringing back some great information on advocacy for all children.

**MAYOR GERWIG:** Mayor Gerwig presented the following report:

- She thought the issue of family leave was something they should discuss as a Council. However, she did not think it was right for the Village at this time. She believed there was not a lot of opportunity in the job market right now and it would not be viewed well from the public. She said it used to be that working for a municipality or the government provided better benefits to make up for the lower pay. But in this economy, the Village already has some of the best paying jobs. She thought they needed to look at in an equitable way. She understands family leave is a significant issue, but she does not think the Village is at the point where they should incur that expense. She did appreciate it being brought forward, because that is what the Council members should do.
- She stated Awilda Rodriguez will be very well missed, as she was always here, the face of Wellington, and did her job unbelievably well. She said she worked with Awilda through some difficult and stressful times, and Awilda managed these issues with courage, strength, and professionalism.
- In reference to the Women of Wellington who had requested the Village light the clock tower in purple for Alzheimer's Awareness month, she thanked staff for working very hard on this. She thought it was very beautiful and stated she has gotten incredible feedback from the public about how much they appreciate it.
- She stated she had a nice vacation last week but understood there were some difficulties while she was gone. She said the community worked together to solve problems the best they could. She acknowledged they do not always agree, but there is no other place she would rather be.
- She mentioned she might not be able to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, as she has a family emergency out of town.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Village Council, the meeting was adjourned.

**Approved:**

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**Anne Gerwig, Mayor**

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**Rachel R. Callovi, CMC, Village Clerk**