

**Memorandum**  
**Department of Public Works**



**TO:** Michael O. Geisel, P.E.  
 City Administrator

**FROM:** James A. Eckrich, P.E. *JAE*  
 Public Works Dir. / City Engineer

**DATE:** August 23, 2023

**RE:** City Hall Fountain

As you know, when City Hall was constructed it included a fountain donated by Louis Sachs. The fountain generally operates from April through November, and is the first thing motorists see as they approach City Hall from the south or east. It is a very aesthetically pleasing amenity to City Hall and demonstrates by example the type of high quality development expected by the City of Chesterfield.

While the fountain is very nice, it is expensive and labor intensive to operate. Since 2009 the City has spent an average of \$13,858 per year on fountain repairs and maintenance. This does not include the water necessary to fill and operate the fountain. Annual maintenance costs vary substantively, and have been as low as \$235 in 2021 and as high as \$48,447 in 2012.

On August 7, 2023 a member of the City Council questioned the costs to operate the fountain and whether the City should continue to do so. This timing of this question is pertinent, as the Facility Maintenance Division recently had to shut off and drain the fountain due to another water leak.

The Facility Maintenance Division has assessed the water leak, including pressure testing the intake and outtake piping. As we have determined there are no pipe leaks it appears that all the deficiencies are coming from the fountain itself. These can be corrected by a substantial repair / reseal / refinish of the fountain estimated at \$65,000. Additionally, we are recommending a new chemical feeding and housing system to address the algae and water quality problems we continuously battle with the fountain. These costs are broken down as follows:

Repair / Reseal / Refinish Fountain	\$65,000
New Chemical Feed System incl. Chem and Equip Housing	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>

The cost to address the fountain deficiencies, reseal the fountain, and construct a new chemical feed system (including housing for the equipment and chemicals) is \$85,000. It is my opinion that now is the optimal time to determine how we want to proceed regarding the fountain. I believe there are two options. The first option is that we commit to the fountain and its importance to the City. This will necessitate the inclusion of \$85,000 in the 2024 Budget to address the current deficiencies and an annual commitment to the fund the maintenance required. The second option is to repurpose the fountain to another use. This could include a number of different options, the easiest being a conversion to a planter of some kind.

I request that this matter be considered by the Planning and Public Works Committee of City Council. During that meeting I can discuss the fountain with the committee, including current / ongoing problems and potential options for repurposing. I will ask the Building Maintenance Supervisor to attend this meeting to answer questions and provide additional information regarding fountain maintenance.

### **Action Recommended**

This matter should be forwarded to the Planning and Public Works Committee of City Council for consideration. Should PPW wish to continue operation of the fountain the Public Works Department will include \$85,000 in the 2024 Budget for a project to improve the fountain. Should PPW choose to consider other options for the fountain, it should direct Public Works Staff to delineate options with costs for consideration at a future PPW meeting. Should PPW ultimately recommend to repurpose the fountain that will need to be submitted to the full City Council for approval at a later date.

**Please forward to PPW for review and recommendation. Assuming Council's preference is to continue operating the fountain, I plan to allocate \$85,000 from the remaining ARPA fund allocation for this work.**

 2023-8-23