

(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. The full text of the minutes is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)

**West Branch, Iowa
Council Chambers**

City Council Work Session

**February 6, 2012
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Don Kessler opened the West Branch City Council meeting by welcoming the audience and the following City staff: City Administrator Matt Muckler, City Attorney Kevin Olson, Park and Recreation Director Melissa Russell, Police Officer Thomas Stewart, Public Works Director Matt Goodale, Fire Chief Kevin Stoolman, Fire Chief Administrator Dick Stoolman and Library Director Nick Shimmin.

Council members: Mark Worrell, Jordan Ellyson, Dan O'Neil, Colton Miller and Jim Oaks.

Matthew J. Wildman, P.E., Project Manager, HR Green, Inc. – Walker, IA Submerged Attached Growth Reactor (SAGR) Project

Matt Wildman from Howard R. Green Company briefed the City Council on the Submerged Attached Growth Reactor ("SAGR") system that is being installed in the City of Walker. Wildman explained that the SAGR system is a constructed wetlands with a rock base in the cells. The SAGR system was approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources within the last two months. The City of Walker chose this method because of cost implications.

Councilperson Worrell asked about detention time of the effluent. Wildman stated that the detention time is about four days and that the system would only need one foot of fall to treat the materials in the system. The rock bed that collects the bacteria is four feet thick. Worrell inquired about whether being located in the flood plain would cause issues. Councilperson Oaks provided a history of the current wastewater treatment site.

Muckler asked Wildman the difference in maintenance/operating for the SAGR system versus the mechanical plant. Wildman explained that the SAGR system usually only needs a monthly inspection. The cells require little maintenance and the diffusers don't typically plug. There will be some maintenance with the ultraviolet disinfection bulbs. Muckler also asked about the decision making process Walker used to select the SAGR system. Wildman indicated that Walker chose the SAGR system for two reasons, it was the cheapest alternative and that Walker did not have the necessary land for mechanical plant. Wildman offered to present the Council with additional information on the SAGR system at their request.

Work session ended at 6:23 p.m.

Don Kessler, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Ashley Borland-Kaalberg, Administrative Assistant