



**Agenda Item: Resolution**

**Title: RESOLUTION 2021-32, EXTENDING IMPLMENTATION DATE OF ENROLLED ORDINANCE NUMBER 1778 NON-MUNICIPAL WATER USE**

**Recommended Council MOTION:**

Move to approve a Resolution 2021-32, extending the implementation date of Enrolled Ordinance Number 1778, Non-Municipal Water Use, to December 1, 2021, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign.

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**Administrative or Policy Goal:**

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**Background:**

Enrolled Ordinance No. 1778 was approved by City Council in August 2020 and requires non-municipal wells to be permitted where the well will produce groundwater within the portion of the utility services area lying inside the municipal corporate limits.

In preparation to implement this ordinance, more than 200 wells have been revealed with the vast majority being located in the western-most section of the community. Outside of west Laramie, 30 domestic wells have been identified.

The neighborhoods lying west of Interstate 80 were initially developed as a rural subdivision. In 1966, property owners filed the first of two petitions with the city seeking to be annexed and receive city wastewater and water utility services due to “the health hazard created by...the use of septic tanks and water wells ranging from 14 feet to some 56 feet in depth” (*West Laramie*, 457 P.2d 498, 502 (Wyo. Sup. Ct. 1969)). The area of west Laramie is characterized by “naturally poor inorganic water quality” and it was likely this factor, combined with “increasingly unsanitary (bacterial contamination) conditions in the alluvial aquifer (i.e. non-potable), that precipitated the need” for annexation and connection to city water/wastewater infrastructure (Moody, 2021).

West Laramie water well statistics:

- approx. 173 water wells were constructed for domestic use according to WYSEO records
- 37% completed in alluvium (well total depth 30’ or less)
- 63% completed in Morrison and/or Cloverly bedrock
- 1 well completed in the Casper Aquifer

With approximately 170 permitted private/domestic wells lying in west Laramie, it will be necessary to ascertain a great deal of information. It is unknown how many of these wells are known to property owners, whether the wells are used, or not, and for what purpose. It is reasonable to assume that none of these wells are connected to residences, but this must be confirmed as well.

Staff recommend delaying the implementation of Enrolled Ordinance No. 1778 until December 1, 2021 to allow sufficient time to gather better information about the state of the wells in west Laramie and develop appropriate public information and assistance as part of the permitting process under E.O. 1778. Support for residents with wells on their property could include assistance with water quality testing to determine safe uses, well-capping, and well maintenance. City Manager is likely to recommend budgetary allocation to support these programs once sufficient information is available to define the scope of the needed residents support.

With approval of the resolution, land owners will have until December 1, 2021 to comply with the requirements of Enrolled Ordinance no. 1778.

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**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

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**Responsible Staff:**

City Manager, 721-5226

Natural Resources Administrator, 721-5213