City Council Staff Report

Date:
11/1/2023

Applicant:
Mapleton City

Location:
N/A

Prepared By:
Sean Conroy, Community Development Director

Public Hearing:
No

REQUEST

Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement to exchange water shares with Saratoga Springs.

BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION

Mapleton City owns shares in the East Jordan Irrigation Company and the Utah and Salt Lake Canal Company. When these shares were transferred to the City, they were intended to be added to the water the City could pull from our wells. However, based on our recent Water Rights Master Plan, it was determined that the City had more water rights in our wells than the aquifer could likely support, and the priority for new water should be surface water.

Saratoga Springs is interested in acquiring the City's shares in East Jordan and Utah and Salt Lake Canal companies. State law does not allow cities to sell water rights, but it does allow for a water rights exchange. The proposed agreement would allow Saratoga Springs to acquire strawberry water rights, which is surface water, from property owners within the East Bench Irrigation District (primarily west of Highway 89) and/or from the Mapleton Irrigation District, and transfer them to the City in exchange for the East Jordan and Utah and Salt Lake Canal company shares. This would benefit both cities. The City's water attorney is preparing the agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the attached resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE WATER SHARES WITH SARATOGA SPRINGS.

WHEREAS, Mapleton City owns shares in the East Jordan Irrigation and Utah and Salt Lake Canal companies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saratoga Springs would like to acquire those shares; and

WHEREAS, the proposed agreement would allow Saratoga Springs to acquire strawberry water from either the Mapleton Irrigation District or the East Bench Irrigation District and exchange them for the East Jordan and Utah and Salt Lake Canal shares.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Mapleton to authorize the City to enter into a Water Rights Exchange Agreement with Saratoga Springs.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MAPLETON, UTAH, This 1st day of November, 2023.

_____
Dallas Hakes, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Camille Brown
City Recorder

Publication Date:
Effective Date: