



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Council Session

Item G24

#2005-135 - Approving an Increase to Staff by One Employee for the Position of Maintenance Worker I / II for the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Staff Contact: Steven P. Riehle, Public Works Director

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steven P. Riehle, Public Works Director

Meeting: April 26, 2005

Subject: Approving an Increase to Staff by One Employee for the Position of Maintenance Worker I/II for the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Item #'s: G-24

Presenter(s): Steven P. Riehle, Public Works Director

Background

Any changes to the FTE (Full Time Equivalent) schedule needs to be approved by the City Council. FTE is a measure that the City uses to approve the number of employment positions that may be filled. The current FTE table allows for 6 Maintenance Worker I / II positions. The recommended change will allow for one additional FTE to assist with sewer locates.

Discussion

A state wide one-call system was created in the 1990's. The system allows an individual or a company that will be excavating to call one number to have all of the underground utilities located. Before the one-call system, individuals or companies were required to call each and every utility department that may have underground facilities before digging. The City Public Works choose not to belong to the system because our storm sewer is easy for the public to locate, the traffic signal cables are only at signalized intersections, and our sanitary sewer mains are very deep therefore they typically do not interfere with construction work.

The decision not to belong to the one-call system has proven to be a good decision financially. The city has saved money on staffing requirements because conflicts of with our storm sewer, traffic signals, and sanitary sewer have been minimal. However, in January 2005, the State of Nebraska Attorney General's office mandated that the City of Grand Island's Public Works Department participate in the one-call system.

The Grand Island Utilities Department has 2.6 people dedicated to the one-call system for electrical and water one-call utility locates. The Public Works Department has been participating in the one-call system since February 2005. The Wastewater Division had 464 locates in March, they are currently receiving requests for approximately 50 locates per day. The volume of calls is taking staff time away from our sanitary sewer maintenance and cleaning operations. A full time person at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is needed to handle the volume of one-call utility locates we are receiving.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Make a motion to approve the additional employee for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to a future date.
4. Take no action on the issue.

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the increase of staff by one employee for the position of Maintenance Worker II for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Sample Motion

Approve the additional employee for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

RESOLUTION 2005-135

WHEREAS, the 2004/2005 adopted budget for the Wastewater Division of the Public Works Department allows for six full-time equivalent (FTE) Maintenance Worker I/II positions; and

WHEREAS, due to regulations for the state One-Call Notification System, the Public Works Department is mandated to participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, due to the high demand for locates of storm sewer pipes, traffic signal wiring and sanitary sewer mains, it is necessary to add a FTE Maintenance Worker I / II to complete this work; and

WHEREAS, the personnel budget for the Wastewater Division would be increased to reflect the additional FTE position; and

WHEREAS, this can be accomplished without a budget increase in personnel costs for the Wastewater Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the 2004/2005 adopted budget be amended to add a full-time equivalent allocation for one Maintenance Worker I / II position in the Wastewater Division of the Public Works Department.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, April 26, 2005.

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk