



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Council Session

Item G4

Approving Minutes of January 31, 2006 City Council Study Session

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

January 31, 2006

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Study Session of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska was conducted in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 100 East First Street, on January 31, 2006. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on January 25, 2006.

Mayor Jay Vavricek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmember's Meyer, Whitesides, Pielstick, Gilbert, Nickerson, Pauly, Hornady, Walker, and Haase. Councilmember Cornelius was absent. The following City Officials were present: City Administrator Gary Greer, City Clerk RaNae Edwards, Finance Director David Springer, City Attorney Doug Walker, and Public Works Director Steve Riehle.

INVOCATION was given by Councilmember Jackie Pielstick followed by the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

MAYOR COMMUNICATION: Mayor Vavricek commented on the City Council Retreat which was held Saturday, January 28, 2006. Mayor Vavricek listed the 33 goals for 2006/2007.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Update. Public Works Director Steve Riehle reported this was an update regarding activities at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Introduced were Ben Thayer, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent and supervisory staff Brad Titman, Mike Hargins, Roger Scott, and Fred Tustin from the WWTP.

Mentioned was the responsibility for operation and maintenance at the WWTP with 27 full-time staff operating 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. An average of 12 million gallons of sewage was treated every day with approximately 60 percent of the plant's sewage coming from 10 large customers. Mr. Riehle explained the process of the wastewater collection and treatment at the plant. The current wastewater treatment plant was built in 1964.

Mr. Riehle stated the WWTP regulatory compliance record was outstanding. The funds available were generated by sewer use fees which goes back into the WWTP capital improvements and operations of the plant.

The following were projects completed over the last three years at a cost of over \$11 million:

- Belt Filter Press
- Aerobic Digesters
- Polymer System
- Grit Handling
- Sludge Storage Lagoon
- Primary Clarifier Improvements

- Secondary Clarifier Improvements
- UV Disinfection System

Tom Heinemann, Consulting Engineer from CH2M Hill presented a progress report since his presentation to council on July 9, 2002. Reviewed were the sewage sludge handling and disposal methods.

Phase I - was completed in February 2005 which included a belt filter press (BFP) system, digester modifications, and grit handling equipment in the amount of \$8.4 million.

Phase II - Improvements included grease improvements, short-term secondary clarifiers, short-term primary clarifiers, and polymer system modifications in the amount of \$0.8 million to date.

Phase III – Consider off-site composting, vortex grit removal system, and install primary clarifier No. 3.

Phase IV – Install secondary clarifier No. 4.

Mr. Heineman stated that progress toward the goals had been made eliminating 3 primary odor sources which included: sludge holding/dewatering facilities, aerobic digester, and sludge storage lagoon. Mentioned were challenges imposed by NDEQ and changes in conditions including increased flow and organic loading from Swift, regulatory compliance, and odor.

The City's response to these challenges were presented as follows:

- WWTP had remained in compliance with permit
- Consulted with Swift regarding anaerobic lagoon improvements
- Modified composting process to respond to increased sludge production
- Updating wastewater collection and WWTP facility plans

Short-term solutions beginning January 2006 was to send all sludge to area landfills, which would curb odors originating from the WWTP. The Public Works Department would lease equipment for a special pilot study starting in March 2006 for an aerated static pile composting system. They would continue to evaluate a long-term sludge handling solution.

Three long-term alternatives were mentioned which had been short-listed included anaerobic digestion and land application of sludge, aerated static pile and land application of compost, and landfill disposal.

Additional efforts were to complete sanitary sewer collection and facility plan updates, develop expanded WWTP web page to better inform community of work being done, and complete design and construction of replacement lift station 19 near Capital Avenue and U.S. Highway 281.

Discussed was lift station 19 which was the cause of some odor and was being looked at to be replaced. Mr. Riehle stated the cost of hauling sludge was \$12,000 per week. Sources of odor were discussed along with an instrument that would be purchased to measure odor.

The following people spoke concerning odors from the WWTP:

Lewis Kent, 624 East Meves
Karen Colan, 225 Lakeside Drive
Bud Jeffries, #28 Kuester Lake
Ron Miller, 704 South Cherry
Jan Mefford, 2725 East Seedling Mile Road
Willie Skala, 323 Mallard Lane
Jeff Greer, 514 South Shady Bend Road

Discussion was held with regards to other cities such as Lincoln and Omaha that had wastewater treatment plants and how they handled odor problems. Land application of sludge was explained and the benefits.

Mayor Vavricek commented on this issue being important and that we would do everything we could to remedy it.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk