



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Council Session

## Item I-2

**#2015-151 - Consideration of FTE Amendment for the Wastewater  
Division of the Public Works Department**

Staff Contact: John Collins, P.E. - Public Works Director

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Marvin Strong PE, Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineer

**Meeting:** June 9, 2015

**Subject:** Consideration of FTE Amendment for the Wastewater Division of the Public Works Department

**Item #'s:** I-2

**Presenter(s):** John Collins PE, Public Works Director

## Background

With the current updates taking place throughout the Wastewater Division the need for maintenance work will greatly be diminished. The Headworks project consists of new equipment and the North Interceptor will reduce the number of lift stations by a minimum of four (4) and possibly up to ten (10), therefore reducing the workload for maintenance within Wastewater.

To ensure the Wastewater Division maintains a high level of regulation compliance an additional Laboratory Technician is being requested.

## Discussion

The Wastewater Plant Engineer reviews staffing levels and skill sets at periodic intervals and is recommending two (2) changes to meet Wastewater's current and projected needs. At this time we are proposing the addition of a Laboratory Technician (\$39,152.36-\$55,091.40) and the elimination of a vacant Maintenance Mechanic II (\$41,497.56-\$58,391.32). There will be no net change in the number of Wastewater FTEs, and the City would be better able to meet its wastewater obligations.

The Maintenance Mechanics spent a disproportionate amount of time keeping the old pumps, old mechanically cleaned bar screens and old grit equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which were beyond their useful life expectancy, operating properly. The old mechanically cleaned bar screen and old grit equipment also negatively impacted the new aeration system. The Headworks project will be complete in a few weeks and will require substantially less maintenance, reducing the need for staff.

The permitting requirements and complexity of treatment is continually growing, increasing the need for testing and training. The requested Laboratory Technician will assist with compliance of chloride limits in the new NPDES permit, additional sampling of industrial customers, development of a Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Program, resolving issues resulting from the Nebraska Safety Council Inspection, training, Hydrogen Sulfide monitoring and providing better coverage for the lab.

An FTE Amendment is needed to approve the changes in the 2014/2015 budget FTE schedule.

### **Alternatives**

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

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve amending the City's current FTE schedule to reflect the addition of one (1) Laboratory Technician as well as the elimination of one (1) Maintenance Mechanic II for the Wastewater Division of the Public Works Department.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2015-151

WHEREAS, the City approves the FTE's for each department as part of the budget process; and

WHEREAS, an amendment is required to allow changes to be made to the FTE schedule; and

WHEREAS, the Wastewater Division of the Public Works Department has requested a reclassification of a position which will result in the deletion of one (1) FTE Maintenance Mechanic II and the addition of one (1) FTE Laboratory Technician; and

WHEREAS, the FTE adjustment will result in a net zero change to the number of FTEs in the Wastewater Division of the Public Works Department; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Wastewater Division Personnel FTE Budget Allocation is necessary to allow for the elimination of one (1) Maintenance Mechanic II and the addition of one (1) Laboratory Technician.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that amending the Wastewater Division Personnel FTE Budget Allocation is hereby approved.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, June 9, 2015.

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Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☒ _____
June 5, 2015	☒ City Attorney