



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, September 21, 2010**

**Study Session**

## **Item -2**

### **Update of Odor Task Force**

**Staff Contact: Jeff Pederson**

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Jeff Pederson, City Administrator  
**Meeting:** September 21, 2010  
**Subject:** Update on Odor Task Force  
**Item #'s:** 2  
**Presenter(s):** Odor Task Force

## **Background**

Odor has been an issue for several years. In May 2010, at a Study Session City Administration presented the potential for an odor ordinance and how that might be structured. From that Study Session an Odor Task Force was formed to continue the investigation of an odor ordinance and to review the odor issue. This Task Force consists of Council member Niemann, Council member Ramsey, Council member Gericke, Council President Gilbert, and City Administration staff. Council member Niemann serves as the Chair of the Odor Task Force. A representative from the Central District Health Department, Jeremy Collinson, the Environmental Health Supervisor, has also worked with the group. The Odor Task Force has met several times throughout the summer to discuss odor issues.

## **Discussion**

The Odor Task Force reviewed information presented at the May Study Session. An area of concern for the group was the City's ability to monitor odors. Although the Nasal Ranger has been a useful tool for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the human factors involved can impact the results. With that in mind, the Task Force investigated other odor measuring devices that had less subjectivity and enlisted the help of an odor expert, Dr. Dwaine Bundy. Dr. Bundy holds a Ph.D. and PE, is a former Iowa State faculty member, and has worked in several communities on air quality and odor issues involving livestock, waste management and agricultural processing facilities. Having a consultant provide an outside point of view with knowledge and experience with odor management was very beneficial.

Dr. Bundy made a site visit to Grand Island on August 2-3, 2010. At that time he briefly assessed sources of community odor complaints and met with the Task Force at the end of his visit. The consultant believes odorous compounds near the Wastewater Treatment

Plant and JBS are made up of hydrogen sulfide. Reducing hydrogen sulfide gasses can reduce odors, but more information is needed on the odorous gases. The OdaLog is an instrument that reads hydrogen sulfide continuously, and can provide information on the correlation between hydrogen sulfide and odor emissions. An OdaLog takes measurements every ten minutes for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, along with collecting weather information. Data is then downloaded every two-four weeks. With the advice and knowledge from the consultant, the Odor Task Force believes that using the OdaLog would greatly improve the City's ability to monitor odors.

During the past year and over the course of the time that the Odor Task Force has been meeting, JBS has demonstrated a much higher commitment to managing odor emanating from the plant. Additionally, JBS and the City have strengthened their working relationship through improved communication and accountability. The Odor Task Force would like to use this improved relationship to move forward in a mutual effort to manage the odor issue without the implementation of a formal program of compliance and sanctions.

The Task Force believes that moving forward over the next year they will be able to improve the City's ability to monitor odor emissions, as well as learn more about odor impacting the community using the OdaLog instruments. By doing this in a mutual effort with JBS, Wastewater, and other odor generators, it will provide the Task Force the opportunity to share data and create a greater understanding of the odorous emissions. Ultimately, being equipped with more knowledge of the odor in Grand Island, will lend itself to reducing odor more efficiently.

With the City overseeing the monitoring process, if problems persist at the same level then the Task Force would be in the position to move forward in the a formal route to creating an ordinance.

## **Conclusion**

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to update on the work of the Odor Task Force, and allow for any questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand.