

# **City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

**Monday, December 6, 2021**

**Regular Meeting**

## **Item Resolut.1**

**Council to discuss and consider action passing Emergency Ordinance to repair and replace another portion of the main trunk line of the sanitary sewer into the Wastewater Treatment Plant,**

*authorize the Mayor to sign the Ordinance and Proclamation and waive the three readings of the Ordinance because of the threat to public safety.*

**Staff Contact: Dustin Rief, City Manager**

# Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: December 6, 2021

**AGENDA TITLE:** Council to consider authorizing the use of \$136,159.60 in contingency funds for the emergency replacement of sewer main trunk line that collapsed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION:** Public Works

**PRESENTATION BY:** City Manager, Dustin Rief

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION:** On October 24, 2021, City staff found another collapse in the main trunk line at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This collapse was just upstream from the influent flow building in roughly the same location where a collapse occurred in July. M.C. Schaff & Associates were immediately called to assist with this emergency. They have provided the attached letter to the City that details what happened and how it was repaired.

The cost breakdown for this emergency repair is:

Infinity Construction (including dewatering subcontractor)	\$118,809.60
<u>MC Schaff (professional svc &amp; coordination)</u>	<u>\$ 17,350.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$136,159.60

Staff is seeking Council approval of an Ordinance declaring this incident an emergency, and to authorize the use of sewer contingency funds to cover the costs associated with repair.

## **BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that 1) Council declare this finding an emergency, and 2) Authorize use of sewer contingency funds in the amount of \$136,159.60 to cover the cost of repair.

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### **EXHIBITS**

Resolution ☐      Ordinance ☒      Contract ☐      Minutes ☐      Plan/Map ☐

Please provide all visual presentation materials.

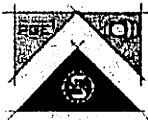
Other (specify) ☒ Letter from M.C. Schaff & Associates and Ordinance.

**NOTIFICATION LIST:** Yes ☐    No ☐    Further Instructions ☐

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City of Scottsbluff  
Office of the City Manager

Effective date: January 20, 2017



November 29, 2021

City of Scottsbluff  
Water Reclamation  
Attn: Lynn Garton  
2525 Circle Drive  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

RE: Emergency Repair,  
Between Headworks and Screw Pumps

Mr. Garton:

On Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, we were notified that there appeared to be a line collapse of the main trunk line for the sanitary sewer between the headworks building and the screw pumps at the wastewater treatment plant. Earlier in July, a similar situation occurred just upstream of the headworks building in roughly the same location. We were asked to work with you to evaluate the situation and come up with a plan to fix the problem as soon as possible due to necessity to divert the inflow into the North Platte River as no waste could reach the plant at that time.

Although we had recently went through a similar situation at the plant, this pipe collapse posed some significant issues. The first challenge was the depth of the pipe. The collapse occurred in a stretch of pipe that was significantly lower than the first. The pipe was located in ground water which made it impossible to expose without some dewatering effort. In addition, the pipe was located fairly close to an existing building. Given the material type as well as the saturation of the soils, extra care had to be taken to keep the existing soils from undermining the building. Also, over the years, a number of modifications have occurred in this area and the exact location of not only the collapsed main but other infrastructure was somewhat unknown. A great deal of effort was placed on exposing existing utilities to make sure additional damage wasn't incurred during the rehab.

Once again, bypass pumping was necessary to isolate the collapsed line. The team was able to locate and install pumps upstream. All communities contacted were more than willing to help in anyway possible. The City of Bayard and the City of Gering ultimately had large enough bypass pumps that they were more than willing to lend to the City at no cost in order for the job to be completed quickly. The generosity of all the communities contacted should not go unnoticed.

Downey Drilling was very helpful in rescheduling other projects to make time to mobilize and install two dewatering wells on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Once the groundwater was lowered enough to expose the break, Infinity Construction stayed on task until a concrete collar could be placed over the pipe and put back in service. Understand that although it appeared to take a significant time to get the dewatering contractor on site, everyone worked diligently to get this specialized operation in place and working.

The collapse appeared to be, and was later verified, due to aging infrastructure. The pipe appears to have been installed in the late 1960's and constructed of RCCP. RCCP is known to deteriorate excessively due to the exposure to sewer gasses. The failure also happened in an location in the system that would have been impossible to detect or avoid. It is nearly impossible for any type of inspection as the pipe flows full and there is no way of isolating this stretch of pipe without direct discharge or a very large expense of bypass pumping.

818 South Beltline Highway East Scottsbluff, NE. 69361  
Phone 308.635.1926 Fax 308.635.7807

2116 Pioneer Ave Cheyenne, WY. 82001  
Phone 307.635.2828 Fax 307.635.9902

City Staff is well aware that the pipe in question needs to be evaluated and reinforced or replaced. The ongoing issues of emergency service contracts has exposed a significant issue that must be addressed. We are in the process of evaluating some alternatives and will be providing some recommendations to the City in the near future.

The emergency service team associated with fixing the situation were:

- City of Scottsbluff, Water Reclamation Personnel
- Infinity Construction, Aldo Gonzalez
- Downey Drilling
- MC Schaff & Associates

Total costs for the project were:

Infinity Construction (including dewatering subcontractor) - \$118,809.60  
MCS (Professional Services and Coordination) - \$17,350.00

**Total Project Cost - \$136,159.60**

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at the Water Reclamation Department. Without your efforts, cooperation and pride, this project would not have gotten done as quickly as it did. Your knowledge of the system and willingness to do whatever it took to expedite the fix helped both the contractor and us get this major issue rectified.

A sincere thank you should also be given to Infinity Construction. Their willingness to stop work on all of their contracted projects in order to help the City of Scottsbluff, and complete a very difficult task with top notch quality and professionalism is a service that is unmatched.

Attached are invoices for Infinity Construction and MCS for your reference. Please feel free to contact us with any additional issues or concerns.

Sincerely,

FOR THE FIRM OF  
M.C. SCHAFF & ASSOCIATES, INC.

David Schaff, P.E.

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**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF ANOTHER PORTION OF THE MAIN TRUNK LINE FOR THE SANITARY SEWER INTO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, THE EXPENDITURE OF \$ 136,159.60 FROM THE SEWER CONTINGENCY FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA.**

Section 1. The City Council finds the following:

A. Another collapse of a portion of the main trunk line for the sanitary sewer took place between the headworks building and the screw pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (the APlant@) on October 24, 2021. An evaluation of the infrastructure and surrounding area revealed the City was required to dewater and then repair the main trunk line into the Plant (the Aproject@). City staff are not equipped to perform the project, from a safety or construction standpoint.

B. The collapse in this portion of the main trunk line creates a danger as no waste could reach the Plant and the waste has to be diverted and not treated which requires immediate action to complete the project.

C. An emergency exists because the portion of the collapsed main trunk line creates an immediate threat to public safety because it could cause property damage to customers and cause safety issues associated with raw waste being diverted. The City is required to act quickly in order to minimize the impact on the environment. The project must be completed as soon as possible. The scope for the project has exceeded the capabilities of City staff and contractor assistance is required. The City has utilized the service of an engineer to evaluate the site and scope of the project. The lowest amount for the scope of the project includes time and materials from Infinity Construction in the amount of \$118,809.60 and engineering and coordination from M.C. Schaff & Associates in the amount of \$17,350.00, for a total project cost of \$136,159.60.

Section 2. The total cost of the project for Infinity Construction and M.C. Schaff for time and materials in the amount of \$136,159.60 as previously described is accepted and approved. The funds for this project will be taken from the sewer contingency fund.

Section 3. An emergency exists which requires this Ordinance be effective immediately due to the fact there is an immediate threat to public safety. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the proclamation of the Mayor and publication of the Ordinance as required by law.

**PASSED and APPROVED** on December 6, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk (Seal)

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**PROCLAMATION**

On December 6, 2021, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Scottsbluff passed and approved Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ concerning the repair and replacement of a portion of the main trunk line for the sanitary sewer located between the headworks building and the screw pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Due to the fact the collapse in a portion of the main truck line of the sanitary sewer threatens to cause property damage to customers, cause safety issues associated with raw waste being diverted and the need to quickly minimize the impact on the environment, the collapse of a portion of the main trunk line for the sanitary sewer constitutes an immediate threat to public safety. This Ordinance must be effective immediately.

I, Jeanne McKerrigan, the Mayor of Scottsbluff, proclaim the existence of an emergency which requires the immediate operation of Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_. The Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the signing of this Proclamation and publication of the Ordinance as required by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk                      (Seal)