

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE MINUTES

July 8, 2014

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a conference at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 8th day of July, 2014, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Robert Castleberry, Greg Heiple, Stephen Holman, Jerry Lang, Chad Williams, Clint Williams, and Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT: Councilmembers Greg Jungman and Lynne Miller

Item 1, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING PHASE 2 OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, said the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was built in 1966 treating six million gallons per day (mgd) capacity and was upgraded in 1982 to 14 mgd capacity. Phase I of the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project began in 2009. The main project drivers included peak treatment capacity, rehabilitation and repair, residuals handling, regulatory changes, hazardous chemical replacement, and water quality improvement. In 2007, the City hired Carollo Engineers to conduct a thorough background investigation of the WTP that included condition evaluation, regulatory evaluation, hydraulic evaluation, and process evaluation. Carollo Engineers set up a pilot project to test water quality, taste, and ozone.

Mr. Komiske said in Phase I, peak treatment capacity was increased from 14 mgd to 17 mgd; the lime system and carbon dioxide system were rehabilitated; electrical and efficiency improvements were made; an emergency generator was installed in a new building; and some of the major process equipment such as filters and pumps were replaced. He said three and one-half miles of an eight mile 36 inch diameter pipe from Lake Thunderbird to the WTP has currently been upgraded to a 48 inch pipe.

Mr. Komiske said Phase 1 Project had a total construction cost of \$12,250 million and was listed as an American Resource and Recovery Act (ARRA) "Green Project" to save energy and chemical usage. He said the City used a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan for the project, which saved the City \$2 million in principal forgiveness on the project. Phase I was completed in October 2010.

Mr. Komiske said Phase II will address improved residuals management; regulatory requirements; safety issues (hazardous chemicals); and enhancement of water quality.

Mr. Komiske said current water disinfection methods do not meet revised State requirements and current disinfection chemicals do not meet State design standards. He said the City of Norman has continuously met or exceeded State water quality goals so the next step in addressing water quality will be the treatment for pharmaceuticals and household chemicals as well as treatment of byproducts from algae as phosphorous loads increase. He said enhanced water quality will also include reducing taste and odor issues. He said safety issues will be addressed by eliminating storage of highly hazardous liquefied gasses such as chlorine and ammonia and it is proposed that highly toxic chemicals be stored in a new chemical building. He said some of the equipment and facilities are beyond their useful life and need to be rehabilitated, repaired, or replaced.

Mr. Komiske said Phase II will address the handling and disposing of residuals by developing a longer term plan as current low costs will not be available in the future. He said the WTP will soon run out of space for residuals so the City needs to look at alternatives for storing residuals and making them more solid. He said the existing lagoons are surrounded by floodway and alternatives could include pumping to a new lagoon site across the floodway to an area where there is no flooding or pumping to the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).

Mr. Komiske said total costs for Phase II are \$30.10 million and will consist of low lift pumping - \$2.6 million; ozone contactor with diffusers - \$2.1 million; ozone feed system and building - \$12.3 million; biofiltration upgrade - \$2.7 million; UV System - \$3.5 million; residual handling improvements - \$1.2 million; chemical feed improvements - \$3.5 million; pump station rehabilitation - \$1.8 million; maintenance/storage building - \$0.5 million; and existing building and lighting rehabilitation - \$0.8 million.

Mr. Komiske said the next steps include design and construction; a longer term lower cost contract with Oklahoma City Water Utility Trust; conservation efforts; well blending; additional wells; well treatment; reuse regulations; and a WRC reuse treatment. He said conservation efforts include a project to use effluent at the Compost Facility at a cost of \$100,000, which will save the City water during peak usage. He said due to State regulations, the number of active wells are diminishing. He said well treatment and reuse regulation go hand in hand and the City is waiting on the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) regulations. He said until the City knows what the regulations are, reuse cannot take place.

Councilmember Lang asked if well blending is taking the water from the water wells to a central location for treatment then placing the water back into the distribution system and Mr. Komiske said yes.

Councilmember Castleberry asked the timetable for Phase II and Mr. Komiske said the design contract with Carollo is in the FYE 2015 budget, but after that there is no funding. He said because of the recent ODEQ issues with Norman's wells it is becoming more important to discuss a long term contract with the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust so Norman can buy \$1.89 per 1,000 gallons of water versus \$5 per 1,000 gallon water from OKC. Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, said Norman recently adopted the Strategic Water Supply Plan (SWSP) for future water supplies so the WTP project needs to be integrated with the SWSP. He said the City needs to develop a plan of action or program to present to Council and the public. He said Phase II of the WTP improvements have separate costs than the long term SWSP and before the City does one or the other the plans need to be integrated to save money. Mayor Rosenthal agreed and said there will be capital expenditures for a long term water supply so those costs need to be considered with the WTP projects because the WTP projects are not part of the long term SWSP. Mr. Lewis said the WTP projects are more about capacity and water quality than long term water supply. He said the water quality is good and has not failed any State regulation tests, but ODEQ would like to see the City make some improvements to water quality and the City needs to show progress is being made in that direction.

Mr. Komiske said the City has to move forward with the regulatory pieces of the WTP Project because the City is not meeting the State regulatory requirements for disinfection. He said if the City can start the design piece to show ODEQ that progress is being made, ODEQ will work with the City, but if the City stalls, ODEQ will take action. Mayor Rosenthal reiterated Norman has passed all the water quality tests and have not failed any tests, but ODEQ wants a different process.

Mayor Rosenthal said OKC will not be making a decision on their new rate structure that will affect customers until September or October, but if Staff could get some clarity on what those rates will be for Norman then Council could discuss an interim contract at its upcoming Retreat.

Ms. Joy Hampton, [The Norman Transcript](#), asked how many mgd's Norman has purchased from OKC so far this summer and Mr. Komiske said there was a significant 24 inch waterline break on July 3rd and several million gallons of water had to be purchased from OKC between July 3rd and July 4th. He said the City is also working

to get a clarifier online, which takes a lot of water so Norman is currently purchasing water from OKC to get the clarifier up and running. Mayor Rosenthal asked if Norman should look at charging an inverted surcharge to capture costs on days when Norman has to purchase water from OKC. She said this would be another way to encourage conservation because of the incentive to use less water if the customer knows they will be paying a surcharge for days that water is being purchased from OKC. She said there may be some technology issues involved with determining how many gallons of water a customer uses on a particular day, but she would like Council to have some discussion on a surcharge. She said the surcharge could be tied to the Stage 3 Conservation Policy. Mr. Komiske said some cities have summer rates and winter rates with summer rates being higher. Some members of Council felt that Norman's current inverted rate for water use already covered that.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Norman Phase II Water Treatment Plant Project," dated July 8, 2014

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The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor Pro-Tem