

MINUTES
LAWTON WATER AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 12, 2005 - 6:00 P.M.
WAYNE GILLEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chairman, John P. Purcell Jr. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Stanley Haywood, Randy Warren, Bill Shoemate, Rex Givens, Janice Drewry, Keith Jackson, Robert Shanklin, Jeff Patton.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Mitchell, City Manager; John Vincent, City Attorney; Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk; Col. Sonny Uberti, Fort Sill Liaison.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Consider holding a public hearing to obtain public comment on proposed improvements/construction to the Authority's Sanitary Sewer System (South Wolf Creek Expansion/Upgrade Project) and approve a resolution to adopt the Planning and Environmental Information Document. Exhibits: Resolution No. 05-____ and Location Maps. Planning and Environmental Information is on file in the Public Works Office.

Jerry Ihler, Public Works Director, stated in January of 2005 the City Council identified the South Wolf Creek Upgrade Project to work with the Corp of Engineers and attempt to receive \$5 million through our legislators for a project dealing with our sewer collection system. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from citizens about concerns regarding the environmental impact of this project. The public hearing is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The project identifies planning and environmental information that is in the Public Works Administration office to include letters to the BIA, FEMA, Fish and Wildlife, Oklahoma Historical Society, State Archeological Society and other agencies that are required to be notified. They have identified the 25% match from the Phase I cost savings. The City of Lawton Sewer System Technical Division will perform the design work for the project and the City will provide the Corps of Engineers with the plans and specifications necessary so they can go out and bid the project. The City will acquire the easements as part of the matching funds. This was actually a Phase III Sewer Rehab program that was originally scheduled for 2014-2015. They anticipate that they will start construction in the 2008 period.

Jackson questioned if this was a new sewer line project, a rehab of an old sewer line project or an upgrade.

Ihler stated they are going to run parallel lines next to the existing lines that run from the industrial park to this area because this will help with the expansion of the industrial park as well as growth in that area. The current sewer line is at capacity.

Jackson questioned if they were at any point in developing the east side nine-mile sewer line.

Ihler stated they staff just completed the aerial photography so they can start the design process for that project.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. No one appeared to speak and the public hearing was closed.

MOVED by Warren, SECOND by Givens, to approve Resolution 05-02 to adopt the Planning and Environmental Information Document. AYE: Warren, Shoemate, Givens, Drewry, Jackson, Shanklin, Patton, Haywood. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Consider holding a public hearing to obtain public comment on proposed improvements/construction to the Authority's water treatment facilities, and distribution modifications (Southeast Water Treatment Plant Project) and approve a resolution to adopt the Planning and Environmental Information Document. Exhibits: Resolution No. 05-____ and Location Maps. Planning and Environmental Information is on file in the Public Works Office

Ihler stated this item is very similar to the previous project with regards to this hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to receive concerns from the citizens regarding the impact to the environment. The project is funded by the safe drinking water state revolving fund. They are also receiving an EPA grant of \$1.5 million. The project is also funded by the 2005 CIP. Staff sent out letters to those same agencies as discussed in the previous item. The new SE water treatment plant will be located at SE 15th Street and Coombs Road. Staff did go through a process to identify three sites as to which would be the most cost effective and this was the site that was chosen. The first phase will have a capacity of 10 million gallons per day. The ultimate capacity of the plant will be 40-50 million gallons per day. Raw water will come from two sources: gravity flow from Lake Ellsworth and pumped from Waurika, bypassing the lift station. Somewhere in the area of SE 45th and Bishop Road they will be looking at providing an elevated storage tower to help with fire flows. Because they are only looking at 10 million gallons per day the amount of sludge will not be that great, so they will run a pipeline and pump to the wastewater treatment plant. From an environmental standpoint, the finished water quality goals are to meet or exceed current anticipated safe drinking water standards.

Ihler stated he met yesterday with the consultant and the estimate for the entire project is in the neighborhood of \$30 million. As part of the CIP the cost estimate was \$24 million two years ago. There has been an increase of 30-40% in the cost of materials over the past six months to a year. In some cases such as PVC pipe and fuel the increase has been a 50-100% increase. There were four different consultants who provided estimates on these projects. Staff anticipates an increase of costs of 30% on most of their project estimates for the CIP.

Jackson questioned if Ihler can give an estimate of the cost of the finished product of the SE water treatment plant.

Ihler stated they are looking at \$2.45-\$2.50 per thousand gallons.

Jackson questioned what was the cost at the plant at Medicine Park.

Ihler stated the budget was \$2 million per year, but he would need to calculate the cost per thousand gallons.

Jackson stated the public needs to know the difference of the costs involved in this new plant.

Ihler stated the costs are going to be similar.

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN

Klaus Mueller, from the Hilltop Acres and Airport Development Company, stated he has news that could save the City millions. They have the NE corner of the Hilltop airport which the elevation is a little over 1,100 feet, which would be twice as much room to expand the plant in the future. The City would save money on pumping fees. The city water main line is already on the property. He felt this would be a better solution to build the plant on this property which is 30-40 acres.

Patton questioned why they were just now talking about this situation. They talked about location several years ago.

Mr. Mueller stated that they had brought it up but the City was not going forward with the project at that time. He stated the Waurika water line is also behind the property.

Patton questioned the exact location of this property from the interstate.

Mr. Mueller stated they are 4 ½ miles south of Flowermound Road, right across the street from the prison. He stated the tower could also be built on the property.

Jackson stated that previously when he was on the council, the project was killed because of the figures the Council received for the cost of pumping uphill for the future. He feels this is a good idea, but is still concerned today of the costs.

Ihler stated that they have to pump from Waurika to the SE plant and if this location is by the prison, the pumping costs will not be any different.

Jackson stated they were concerned about pumping treated water into the grid system.

Ihler stated the location is four miles further south. To be able to fill the distribution and the grid system of the City of Lawton, they have to tie into the 24-inch on Flowermound Road to get to the first phase of being able to feed to East Lawton. If they go further South, they will have to build more 24-inch line to be able to provide the distance from Coombs Road to the prison.

Jackson questioned if they have already purchased the property at Coombs Road.

Ihler stated the City has an agreement with the State School Land Commission, but have not gotten an appraised value of what the City will pay. He stated if they locate four miles further South, it would cost more to pump into town from that location.

Mr. Mueller stated the water line is 4.5 miles from Lee. He said that the city currently only has 15 acres for the project and this location is 40 acres.

Warren stated that regardless of which location the plant will be placed, the city is going to have to pump the treated water into the grid.

Ihler stated in either location, they will have to pump from the new plant because they cannot gravity flow into town from the new plant.

Mayor Purcell clarified that if this location is 4 ½ miles South of Lee, then it is approximately 2 ½ miles further South than the proposed plant, so they will have to pump 2 ½ more miles plus lay 2 ½ more miles of pipe.

Ihler stated yes.

Vincent stated that currently with the School Land Commission, the city has a permanent construction easement on the 160 acres. They are negotiating a final site of approximately 40 acres. He stated he did not know where the idea of 15 acres came in.

Mr. Mueller stated that at the location he has spoken about, there would only have to be half as much pressure on the flow grid, which will cut cost on electricity.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Jackson stated that as he was in the mid 1980's, he is still highly concerned about the cost of this treatment plant that is going to be encumbered upon the citizens of Lawton. He does believe that the taxpayers could feel as much as a triple increase in their water bill once this plant is brought on line and constantly pumping up hill into the grid system. He does realize there is a need for an additional water treatment facility, but it will be a severe burden on the taxpayers in a few years.

MOVED by Warren, SECOND by Givens, to approve Resolution 05-03 to adopt the Planning and Environmental Information Document. AYE: Shanklin, Patton, Haywood, Warren, Shoemate, Givens, Drewry, Jackson. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. upon motion, second and roll call vote.

JOHN P. PURCELL JR., CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TRACI HUSHBECK, SECRETATRY