

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

PEIRCE ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

April 8, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

City Council Present: Mayor Spear, Assistant Mayor Lister, Councilors Kennedy, Novelline Clayburgh, Lown, Dwyer, and Thorsen

City Council Absent: Councilors Coviello and Smith

Staff Present: City Manager Bohenko, Suzanne Woodland, Assistant City Attorney, Peter Rice, Deputy Public Works Director and Terry Desmarais, Water/Sewer Engineer

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Also Present: Don Chelton, Consultant, AECOM

Mayor Spear called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Spear stated that he would like to have all of the Council's questions answered regarding this issue and have a clear direction to go into the special meeting following the work session.

Deputy Public Works Director Rice and Water/Sewer Engineer Desmarais gave a power point presentation of the Peirce Island Facilities Upgrade.

Mayor Spear stated that development is not a driver of this project but wonders if there would be any advantage or disadvantage to stop all development until this is built or is there no relationship between the two. Deputy Public Works Director Rice stated there is no real connection between the 2 as it is about the levels and not the quantity. He stated that responsible development allows costs to be spread between the users.

Councilor Dwyer asked how long it will take to finish. Deputy Public Works Director Rice stated that the EPA requires us to revisit this in 2014 and they will determine if it is enough or we need to do more. Councilor Dwyer asked on what basis the decision will be made. Deputy Public Works Director Rice stated that it will be based on the actual performance measure whether combined sewer overflows (CSO) are eliminated and on the water quality.

Councilor Kennedy asked what the peak design flow will have to be for Peirce Island. Deputy Public Works Director Rice stated it will be 9.06 mgd at this point but all flow through the plant will be treated. He further clarified that it is after the two are combined that it will be measured. He continued to explain that the seasonal rolling average TN = 8 mg/l have to meet the requirements and that the volume and duration of CSO's have been reduced from 40-50 times a year to around 14 times a year. He stated it is dependent on the atmospheric conditions and snow melt, etc. He stated it used to be 6 million gallons annual average daily and is now down to 5 million annual average gallons.

Councilor Novelline Clayburgh stated it is important to remind people that we used to get a reimbursement from the federal government and no longer do and also that every community is facing this same challenge.

The presentation continued with the current alternatives, biological aerated filter versus conventional activated sludge pros and cons being compared. Finally, Deputy Public Works Director Rice stated that the current status is we are at the final design phase but still have

continued regulatory uncertainty with specific deadlines set by the EPA. He stated the major project considerations are site constraints/permitting, odor control, regulatory issues, Consent Decree Schedule, communication, plant operation during construction and reducing the project cost.

Councilor Kennedy asked if there are any cost savings if we decided to go to 3 mg/L right away. Mr. Chelton stated it would be the same capital costs, but the operating costs would be more expensive.

Councilor Thorsen asked if the capital expense is the same are we overdesigning to meet the 8 mg/L. Mr. Chelton stated no.

Councilor Kennedy stated that going to 3 mg/L would be an advantage as she feels it is eluded to be coming down the road.

Discussion ensued.

Councilor Kennedy asked when we will have the answers from the EPA in writing.

Assistant City Attorney Woodland stated that they met last Monday and expects something in a couple of weeks. She stated when we do get a draft of the permit, we will have to evaluate and the Council will have to decide.

Mayor Spear stated that the Council is getting the overall big picture this evening but as the process goes along decisions will need to be made regarding sustainability and efficiencies that may not be the most economical ways to go for ratepayers and he wants to be a part of those discussions as well.

Mayor Spear closed the Work Session at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Valerie A. French,
Deputy City Clerk