

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JULY 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Dave Gough. Present at roll call were: Dave Gough, Cindy Corley, Don Osterday, John Sonsalla, Steve Pickett and Felix Perez. Absent: None. Also present were: Mayor Dave Breunig, Jeremy Williams, Dennis McPhail, Dale Wiegel, Bill McDaniel and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Pickett second by Sonsalla that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Pickett second by Perez to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under new business, discussion was held concerning proposed upgrades at the City's wastewater treatment plant. Jeremy Williams then asked those present why they asked for this meeting, and what information they wanted to discuss. It was the consensus of those present to ask Jeremy Williams and Dennis McPhail to elaborate on the statements made at the June 7, 2016 Water and Sewer Committee meeting; when the Compliance Maintenance Report was presented for approval. At that meeting, a statement was made that the wastewater treatment plan is now 20 years old and near full capacity; and that more sludge storage was needed, along with an upgrade to the bar screen system and another oxidation ditch and clarifier should be added.

Jeremy Williams then reported on actions being taken to improve the discharge from the two largest contributors to the wastewater treatment plant, Mexican Cheese and Wis. Whey Protein. Both of these manufacturing plants have their own wastewater pre-treatment plant. Currently the Mexican Cheese plant is not operating correctly, but they are working on it and things are improving. The Wis. Whey Protein pre-treatment plant is working well, and they are discharging almost clear water to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Representatives of Wis. Whey Protein are currently negotiating with representatives of WDNR on their own discharge permit, to discharge clear water through the storm water runoff catch basin system in the business park. This will reduce their discharge to the City's wastewater treatment plant by 30,000 to 40,000 gallons of water per day. They are also working on a water re-use permit to re-use some of the clear water for system cleaning.

Jeremy Williams and Dennis McPhail then reported on the following matters raised by those present:

- The history of Wis. Whey Protein plant was discussed. When the project was initially presented, it was to be a whey processing plant only, built in three phases. Since that time the owners of the plant have added a cheese plant operation. The addition of the cheese plant greatly increased their discharge to the City's wastewater treatment plant.
- Since the discharge from Mexican Cheese and Wis. Whey Protein have overloaded the design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant, affected the CMAR rating of the wastewater treatment plant; will the City be fined by the DNR?

- If the City is fined by WDNR, can we pass that fine onto the appropriate responsible party? It was suggested the current sewer department ordinance be reviewed and updated if necessary.
- It was reported that while the wastewater entering the plant exceeds design limits, the plant discharge is well within design limits. Current plant operation is handling and treating all the wastewater very well. However the side effect of the higher BOD loading is the creation of more sludge. Doug Lindstrom arrived at the meeting at 6:30 PM.
- It was also reported new phosphorus limits will be finalized by the year 2022. Our plant needs to get below a 0.1 mg/l limit. Plant improvements will be needed to reach that limit.
- Jeremy and Dennis then stated in order to accurately plan for wastewater treatment plant improvements; a facility plan needs to be completed to assess the current wastewater treatment plant and plan for the future. The City's current engineering firm Delta 3 Engineering can complete the plant assessment. The estimated cost of the plant assessment is \$50,000.

After discussion and consideration, it was the consensus of those present to postpone any further action regarding the City's wastewater treatment plant until Mexican Cheese Producers and Wis. Whey Protein manufacturing plants improve their pre-treatment plants, and reduce their BOD discharge to the wastewater treatment plant. This may take up to six months. Jeremy Williams then stated he will obtain a copy of the City of Shullsburg sewer ordinance, as their ordinance contains wording regarding daily penalties for excess BOD discharge to the wastewater treatment plant.

Jeremy Williams then reported on the state money available for replacement of lead water lines within the City. Jeremy stated the money can only be used for replacement of residential water laterals from the curb stop to the house. As far as he knows, there are only three of those type of residential water laterals in the City limits.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Sonsalla second by Pickett to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer