

FLOOD PLAIN PERMIT COMMITTEE MEETING
201 West Gray, Building A, Conference Room D

*Monday, February 1, 2016
3:30 p.m.*

Minutes

PRESENT: Shawn O’Leary, Director of Public Works
Susan Connors, Director of Planning/Community Development
Scott Sturtz, City Engineer
Ken Danner, Subdivision Development Manager
Jane Hudson, Principal Planner
Neil Suneson, Citizen Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Todd McLellan, Development Engineer
Rachel Warila, Staff
Mark Daniels, Utilities Engineer
Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer

The meeting was called to order by O’Leary at 3:30 p.m.

Item No. 1, Approval of Minutes:

O’Leary called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 4th, 2016. Scott Sturtz mentioned a few minor corrections to the minutes. A motion was made to approve minutes by Sturtz with changes, and seconded by Neil Suneson. Approved 6-0 (Sherri Stansel was not present). It was noted that six members of the committee were present and a quorum was established.

O’Leary then announced that the first and only application of the day for a water line bore replacement under Bishop Creek on the south side of East Cedar Lane Road, just east of

Jenkins Avenue in the Bishop Creek floodplain. He then requested that McLellan present the Staff Report for this application.

Item No. 2, Flood Plain Permit Application No. 567:

McLellan introduced the City of Norman's Capital Projects Engineer Charlie Thomas and Utilities Engineer Mark Daniels, representing Norman's Utility Authority. McLellan explained that this project consists of replacing 1,120' of 12" water line with new 12" PVC and 16" HDPE water line. He noted that this project would be located in the Bishop Creek floodplain/floodway. For this project, the contract has been awarded to McKee Utility Contractors, Inc. with construction projected to begin in the first quarter of 2016.

McLellan then stated that the new water line will be constructed by a combination of open cutting and boring with a section of water line that crosses the Bishop Creek floodplain bored with 16" HDPE pipe so the floodplain will remain undisturbed. The new water line will be bored a minimum of 10 feet below the existing creek bed and both bore pits will be located outside the floodplain. This project involves work below the floodway and floodplain (Zone AE) of Bishop Creek, with 9 Base Flood Elevation (BFE) of 1103.0' at the site. Since the bore pits will be located outside the floodplain, McLellan said there will be no disturbance in the floodplain due to this project.

McLellan then discussed the Applicable Ordinance Sections:

4(b)(1) Fill Restrictions in the Flood Plain– McLellan explained how the use of fill is restricted in the floodway and that no fill will be brought into the floodplain as part of this project. Therefore, this project meets the requirements of this ordinance section.

4(b)(10) Utilities constructed to minimize flood damage- McLellan stated that all new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding. All public utilities and facilities shall be constructed to minimize flood damage. The water line pipe joints have gaskets making the system watertight and the entire system is leak tested prior to going into service.

4(c)(11) In/exfiltration of flood waters in utility systems- McLellan noted that all new replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system. The pipe joints have gaskets making the system watertight and the entire system is leak tested prior to going into service.

5(a)(viii) No Rise Considerations- McLellan discussed that for proposed development within any flood hazard area (except for those designated as regulatory floodways), certification that a rise of no more than 0.05 ft. will occur in the BFE on any adjacent property as a result of the

proposed work. The applicant's engineer has certified that the project will not cause a rise in the BFE, which meets the ordinance requirements.

McLellan then stated that it was Staff's recommendation that floodplain permit application #567 be approved.

O'Leary then asked the applicant if they had any comments. Daniels stated that they were replacing a pipe that ruptured about a year ago and so they were trying to get the southern loop back into service. McLellan then added that an aerial crossing for the sanitary sewer line was done about 3 to 4 years ago. Suneson then asked what would happen to the old water line and Thomas stated that it would be plugged and that they would not pump cement into it because it was probably broken underneath the creek and he did not know where cement would go and they did not want to potentially let contaminants get into the creek or ground water. Daniels then stated that once they get past the bore pits that they would transition back to using PVC pipe. Thomas added a clarification that an addendum allowed a bid for fusible PVC which was more economical than HDPE, so this entire section would be composed of fusible PVC in a continuous line with no joints. Danner made a motion for approval and it was seconded by Sturtz. Approved 6-0.

Item No. 3, Miscellaneous Discussion

O'Leary then mentioned that McLellan had compiled a yearly summary of 2015 floodplain activity and it was briefly discussed by the committee. In addition, O'Leary mentioned that

there had been a few floodplain violations in Ten Mile Flat Creek since the last floodplain meeting.

Suneson then asked about a previous violation that involved Mr. Hodges property and 48th Ave S.W. and Willow Grove Drive and O'Leary replied that he had met on site with Hodges, the Corps of Engineers, and concerned property owners. In addition, O'Leary explained that there was fear from other private property owners including those in the Cambridge Addition and Arbor Lakes who were afraid that the Canadian River will move into their subdivisions, along with interest from OG&E who has a large electric substation in the area.

O'Leary then explained that the City would be reaching out to contract with an expert hydrologist or whatever discipline it may be that could do a discovery process to explain what can or cannot be done to either anchor the stream banks or move the river and the costs involved for permits and other processes. He stated that this would be done to let private property owners know what they could do to comply and what it would cost them to obtain these permits. McLellan then mentioned that the Corps of Engineers also had a permitting process that applicants could apply for and that property owners that had met on site with them previously were notified of this information.

O'Leary said that the February 15th Floodplain Permit Committee meeting would move forward with the Lindsey Street Bridge Crossing application that staff is finalizing and there would also be an application for the March 7th meeting.

A motion was then made to adjourn the meeting by Sturtz, which was seconded by Connors.

Approved 6-0.