

**Citizen's Wastewater Oversight Committee Meeting  
Council Study Session Room  
201 West Gray  
Norman, Oklahoma  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012  
8:15 AM**

Members Present: Jayna Andrews, Jim Burleson, Tom Kovach, James Wilbanks, and Judith Wilkins

Members Absent: Del Burke and Merrill Snider

Others Present: Anthony Francisco, Suzanne Krohmer, Mark Daniels, and Roger Gallagher

Chair Wilkins called the meeting to order. James Wilbanks moved and Jim Burleson seconded to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2011 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Kovach moved to nominate Judith Wilkins as Committee Chair and motion was seconded by Jayna Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Judith Wilkins nominated Jim Burleson as Committee Co-Chair and motion was seconded by Jayna Andrews. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Daniels, Utilities Engineer, gave a presentation updating current projects

- Lift Station D is 98% complete – subcontractor checking out computer glitches
- Pump will be tested with 2 million gallons of water pumped in and test generator
- Sludge project complete – returning \$28,000 to fund
- Northwest interceptor returning \$340,000 to fund
- Little River project returning \$130,000 to fund
- Lower West Side project returning to \$90,000 to fund
- Industrial project returning \$306,000 to fund
- \$610,000 returned to fund will be transferred to south plant expansion
- 3 projects left to do have easement issues:
  - SE Bishop - upgrading line to 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue – back side of Perfect Swing
  - Tecumseh Interceptor – cost is \$340,000 – still needing permanent easement
  - Plant expansion – engineering report by Garver shows 17 MGD expansion which DEQ did not approve – DEQ says 16 MGD is maximum
  - Utilities Director is sending letter to ask for approval for 16 MGD for the plant

Judith Wilkins – Conservation Commission office is discussing whether to do a TMDL Study or Watershed Base Plan for Thunderbird.

Anthony Francisco led discussion of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) questions on the Sewer Fund. Two Norman citizens asked the State Auditor to look into Wastewater Sales

Tax expenditures and accounting. Cole & Reed, the City's external auditing firm, investigated and responded to State Auditor – there were no improprieties found.

- 1) Reasoning for having separated funds from Wastewater Fund? Sewer Sales Tax is dedicated revenue source for current needs and cannot be used for debt service.
- 2) Why was most of Fund 323 not spent? Delay in construction of south plant expansion.
- 3) Why were Sales Tax Funds transferred to Excise Fund? For Lift Station D Expansion and Rehabilitation project.
- 4) Schedule on new north plant. Council/NUA direction to expand south plant first. In design now, construction on south plant expansion to begin in approximately 1 year. Have to finish south plant expansion first. DEQ denied crossing of Little River. With added capacity at south plant, north plant construction can be delayed for about 25 years.
- 5) Current estimate for building north plant. In 2000, it was estimated at \$31.3 million dollars and now it's estimated to be \$46.9 million dollars.
- 6) Capacity of north plant. 4.5 MGD
- 7) How large is area for north plant? 4.774 acres
- 8) Extra capacity currently diverted from Lift Station D is approximately 1 MGD.
- 9) What has staff done in recent years to prepare for north plant? Built interceptors and Lift Station D expansion.
- 10) Why is staff spending time on south plant before north plant? Council's direction to expand Lift Station D and south plant first.
- Business & Community Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in February and they will be discussing the north plant.
- Council meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> will discuss Annual Report.
- Kovach – Questions on CAFR. #4 – design of south plant, and #9 – DEQ denied building pipeline over Little River.
- City must get Flood Plan Permit to proceed with north plant construction; will probably pursue underground pipeline construction.

Kovach – Total cost of Lift Station D remodel.

Daniels – Approximately \$7 million dollars includes screening. Approximately \$2 million dollars of these costs in today's dollars could be saved.

Kovach – Question on north plant – 2003 vote designated allotment of funds from Sewer Sales Tax to go to construction of north plant. Public perception of saving funds for north plant.

Francisco – Up to \$8 million dollars could be used for north plant but has not been set aside. 2003 was a permissive vote not directed vote, in the opinion of the City Attorney. Council says proceed with south plant first.

Wilbanks – perception vs. illegality – communications issue and trust issue.

Francisco – External auditor responded to State Auditor – only mentioned \$30,000 needs to be transferred from Wastewater Fund to Sewer Sales Tax Fund.

Wilkins – TMDL Studies direct Council's judgment too.

How much money spent on Headworks of North Plant and Lift Station D?

Andrews – Denial of permit for Little River crossing plays into Council decisions.

Kovach – How much of the \$8.1 million has gone or will go to North Plant?

Francisco – Council never set aside \$8.1 million. \$8,169,333 was just 1/3 of the then-estimated cost of building the north plant. Balance of sales tax money will be used for south Plant. The \$8.1 million was a projection of cost. Use of 323 Fund s for expansion – treatment rather than collection. Treatment needs are being met for next 25 years by expansion of south plant.

Judith Wilkins thanked Mr. Gallagher, Council Member, for attending and Committee members for support.

The next scheduled meeting of the Wastewater Oversight Committee is Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 8:15 a.m. in the Council Executive Study Session Room. Members will be notified if meeting is to be held.

There being no further discussion, motion was made Jayna Andrews and seconded by Tom Kovach to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.