

PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

MINUTES of the Prescott City Council Workshop held on September 28, 2010 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 201 South Cortez, Prescott, Arizona.

◆ **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kuykendall called the Workshop to order at 2:01 p.m.

◆ **ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT:

Mayor Kuykendall
Councilman Blair
Councilman Hanna
Councilman Lamerson
Councilwoman Linn
Councilman Lopas
Councilwoman Suttles

ABSENT:

None

1. Presentation/Discussion on Prescott Wastewater Master Plan.

Public Works Director Mark Nietupski said that they were there today to discuss completion of the Sundog Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the Airport Water Reclamation Facility (WRF).

He said that they would first review the information provided previously at the December 9 Workshop and the latter part would address biosolids, local limits and an option for centralized treatment to be considered in the future. The Wastewater Treatment Plan project has been identified for filling immediate needs with respect to wastewater treatment process, equipment deficiencies and insufficient capacities at both facilities. The projected costs to meet the needs were significant, but it was imperative that the City move forward with engineering and implementation of improvements to assure the continued provisions of service now and in the future which complies with Federal and State regulatory requirements.

He then introduced Brad Hempkin of Black & Veatch and Mark Courtney of Carollo Engineers. He said that both firms have particular experience in wastewater treatment and participated in the project.

Mr. Hempkin then gave a PowerPoint presentation, Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof, which addressed the following items:

- ▶ SCOPE OF WORK COMPONENTS
- ▶ EXISTING WWT FACILITIES
- ▶ BUILD-OUT CAPACITIES BASED ON ADOPTED LAND USE PLAN & WAAPA
- ▶ SUND OG WWTP
- ▶ AIRPORT WRF
- ▶ COMMON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROCESS
- ▶ INCREASED WASTEWATER STRENGTH IMPACTS EXISTING PLANT CAPACITY
- ▶ CURRENT SUND OG WWTP CAPACITY
- ▶ ESTIMATED DURATION OF EXISTING SUND OG WWTP CAPACITY
- ▶ CURRENT AIRPORT WRF CAPACITY
- ▶ EXISTING AIRPORT WRF CAPACITY IS INADEQUATE
- ▶ TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED FOR BOTH PLANT EXPANSIONS
- ▶ SUND OG WWTP NEAR TERM IMPROVEMENTS – CONDITION & PROCESS ENHANCEMENT

Mr. Hempkin said that there had been no real improvements at the Sundog plant for 19 years and there were some conditional and process improvements needed.

Councilwoman Suttles asked if it was normal to not have anything done for 20 years at a facility. Mr. Hempkin said that there had been no major project at the facility for that length of time. He said that a 20-year planning horizon at a facility like that was common. He said that over 20 years there are problems occur that need to be addressed.

- ▶ SUND OG WWTP PHASED EXPANSIONS
- ▶ SUND OG WWTP EXPANSION TIMING

- ▶ AIRPORT WRF PHASED EXPANSION
- ▶ AIRPORT WRF EXPANSION TIMING
- ▶ BIOSOLIDS MASTER PLAN
- ▶ BIOSOLIDS TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL
- ▶ CURRENT LAND APPLICATION SITE AND LANDFILL
- ▶ BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES
- ▶ BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

He said that their recommendation was to stay at status quo.

- ▶ BIOSOLIDS TRENDS & OPPORTUNITIES
- ▶ TECHNOLOGY BASED LOCAL LIMITS STUDY
- ▶ FATS, OIL, GREASE (FOG) IN COLLECTION SYSTEM
- ▶ GREASE AT THE WWTP
- ▶ MASTER PLAN CONSIDERED CENTRALIZED TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE
- ▶ WASTEWATER CONVEYANCE
- ▶ LIMITED SUNDG WWTW IMPROVEMENTS
- ▶ PHASE 1 AIRPORT WRF EXPANSION TO 3.75 MGD PROVIDES MAJOR BENEFITS
- ▶ AIRPORT WRF WITH CENTRALIZED TREATMENT
- ▶ CENTRALIZED TREATMENT DECISION POINT DICTATED BY PROJECTED LIFE OF EXISTING SUNDG WWTW – 2016
- ▶ LIFE CYCLE COST COMPARISON – CENTRALIZED VS. DECENTRALIZED WWTW

He said that the recommendations were to keep the options open and postpone the decision.

- ▶ SUMMARY OF THE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

► 5-YEAR CIP EXPENDITURE

Mayor Kuykendall said that the City has effluent commitments from the Sundog Plant to golf courses. He asked if they went to centralized treatment if they would lose that capability. Mr. Hempkin said that they would not. They would maintain their ability to provide effluent. He said that the system maintains the ability to deliver reclaimed water to Prescott Lakes.

Councilwoman Suttles referred back to Slide 35, regarding the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. She said that there was a huge jump in 2011 and by 2015 it was done. She asked if that was where they were right now, or if it was a planned design of where they would be. Mr. Nietupski said that the CIP in place for wastewater treatment facilities does incrementally increase as shown on the chart. He said that it does ramp up with design being completed and improvements being done over a three-year process.

Councilwoman Suttles asked if they have the financing to do the improvements. Mr. Nietupski said that it was part of the utility and wastewater rate analysis. He said that the approach was to leverage or borrow money to do the improvements and then the debt would be paid through the rates.

Councilman Lamerson said that he appreciated the presentation. He asked Mr. Hempkin if he said that every 20 years they need to look at something like this. Mr. Hempkin said that it was purely a case by case basis, but a 20-year planning horizon for a major infrastructure was not uncommon. That does not mean to say that communities do not go back and revisit facilities, but right now they were in a slow-growth economic cycle.

Councilman Lamerson said that it appeared that the growth may not be as relevant as the use. They had deterioration on facilities simply by the nature of the beast. It sounds like the community has to continually plan, regardless of whether they have growth, to keep up the facilities. If he heard correctly, the wastewater was an enterprise fund. They would borrow the money for the infrastructure and those monies would come back through the users' rates.

Mr. Nietupski said that was correct. Councilman Lamerson noted that the monies collected could not be spent somewhere else; it had to take care of the capital improvements. Mr. Nietupski said that was correct. Councilman Lamerson said that the public needs to understand that they need to pay for it.

Councilwoman Linn said that in the presentation it was stated that they could not get to the capacity at the Sundog Plant because of the conservation efforts, which were typical in the southwest. She asked if they were assuming that they would continue the conservation efforts. Mr. Hempkin replied that they did.

Councilman Blair said that they had standards that they had to live by today with ADEQ. He asked if there was a project put into the ultimate plant design for 20 years of upgrading with new standards, whether to deal with pharmaceuticals or other unknowns. Mr. Hempkin said that at both plants they had identified an area reserved for potential future facilities. He said that the Master Plan talks about the potential for emerging contaminants being regulated in the future and they will monitor it. They will have a place at the facility for future regulations to treat them at the site.

Councilman Blair asked if they had the highest technology out there. Mr. Hempkin said that they did. He said that the prudent thing is to strike an economic balance with what regulations they have today, with foresight as to what they may be in the future.

Councilman Blair asked if the ponds were always part of it. Mr. Hempkin replied that they were. It has been accounted for in the recommendation for both sites as well. He said that in terms of a combination of on-site flow equalization for today's condition and for increased flows in the future, they focused on the collection system and tightened up the collect system to remove future contaminants.

Councilwoman Linn clarified that the Sundog Plant handles mostly the older, developed parts of the City and it had not had major changes in 21 years and was their top priority. Mr. Hempkin said that they have a priority need for additional treatment capacity at the Airport plant. The Sundog needs goes back to upgrading some of the facility due to the life of the facility.

Mayor Kuykendall said that this only accounted for wastewater treatment plant expansion. They still have the ongoing battle off trunk lines, etc. Mr. Nietupski said that was correct. The costs associated with the Master Plan are specifically related to both plants. Costs associated with improving trunk mains and manholes are identified directly in the CIP and were not in the numbers being discussed today.

Councilman Lamerson asked where funding was contemplated for those items if it was not in the rate structures. Mr. Nietupski explained that the improvements to the collection system are contemplated in the CIP for wastewater treatment. Both are contemplated in the rate analysis.

John Zambrano, Prescott, said that a diagram was shown that indicated that the wastewater contaminants were increasing by 2-3 times and it was attributed to conservation. He has looked at the wastewater on a per capita basis and found that it has not decreased over the past seven or eight years so conservation could not be the cause in the levels of the contaminants. He said that most has been outdoor conservation which has not had an effect on the wastewater levels.

Councilman Blair said that they had a conservation person that said that 25% of the savings in conservation is directly attributed to some of the problems they were having at the waste plant. Mr. Zambrano said that he has provided her and Jeff Low with the analysis of the effluent. When she was talking about the 25%, it also included the outdoor conservation and that does not affect the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Hempkin said that conservation is not the only thing. They do find wastewater strengths increasing and in a lot of places it is significantly contributed to conservation, but it was not the only element. It also has to do with lifestyle, such as more garbage disposals, etc. The burning issue is that the strength has increased. He said that in the big balance, conservation is a good thing, and he did not mean to paint it in a negative light.

Councilman Lamerson said that he did not think that when their Water Conservation person was talking to them that it was directed at conservation; it had to do with consumption and occupancy rates.

Councilman Blair said when he sat in the sewer camera truck and saw the number of fractured pipes they had in the system only one could imagine that they were using a lot of water volume through the system that is inadequate to carry that volume. When they add in the amount of water saved through conservation, the number of vacancy rates, an old infrastructure system, etc. it is hard to move the solids.

Ken Janecek, Prescott, said that the last time Black & Veatch gave a presentation he had some questions and wrote a six page letter asking for clarification. He said that one of the points was to the issue of the strength. They were talking about spending \$40 million and he asked if it was necessary to do that now. He has not had any of those questions answered today or any explanation of why they were not relevant. He was raising those questions again to hope that they could be addressed.

He said that Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) were identified as one of the problems. He asked how much of the commercial FOG was coming through because it was not properly monitored and how much that would reduce the waste strength if they monitor it. He asked if that would delay the project for several years and give them more time to accumulate more money.

He said that the sewer lines themselves were a big problem. He asked what the impact would be with improving the sewer lines. He asked if that would delay the project.

He said that he had also presented questions about optimization, and how much it would cost to do some chemical optimizing.

Mr. Janacek said that they need to ask how they got from the original design strength to 300%. It could not all be conservation. He said that they need to identify the problem. He asked who was to say that it will not double again. He said that all of those questions were relevant because of the economy.

Mr. Janacek asked if they were at the cutting edge. He said that Black & Veatch was a consultant for Orange County. The Orange County Water District has about 85 cities, serving 1.5 million people. Black & Veatch is designing an expansion of their plant for recharge, which is actually reverse osmosis. That was cutting edge for recharge. This effluent is going to be B+. That is what it would have been 40 years ago for Orange County. He asked why 1.5 million people would treat their effluent before it goes into the ground. He asked why Scottsdale would spend millions for their treatment plant to go to reverse osmosis treatment. He said that was cutting edge. He was not saying they should or should not, but they need to create an understanding that they were not talking about cutting edge with B+ effluent. He said that A+ effluent was not even cutting edge.

Mayor Kuykendall asked Mr. Janacek to submit the questions to the Council and they would get the answers.

Mark Courtney with Corollo Engineers responded to the comments, noting that the burning issue today was existing capacity and addressing the existing needs. That was the immediate capital need based on the current loadings. In addition, they agreed and have addressed the high loadings. In the initial expansion of the Airport facility they were not recommending major solids-treating facilities. Because of the high loading they were focusing on that to be minor modifications. Currently at the Airport Plant it is just dewatered. To delay that capacity they were recommending expansion of that area.

Additionally, they were recommending that when they get to the point four to five years down the road when they have to make a huge investment, in the meantime they have revisited the pretreatment of FOG so they were not treating and seeing the strength of waste so they could account for some of those increases and not make that huge capital investment down the road. They have addressed those points in the plan. They agree that they should delay the capital that they can, but they do need to alleviate the majority by other methods of pretreatment, etc.

Mr. Courtney added that the expansion of the Airport Facility would produce A+ effluent. The current permit is B+, but per ADEQ requirements any major expansion of the facility would kick in the BADCT (Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology) requirements and that would require A+ effluent.

Mayor Kuykendall said that they were not experts on wastewater treatment plant operations. In the interests of their citizens maybe they could find an opportunity

in the near future to get the experts around the table and talk those things through.

2. Adjournment.

There being no further business to be brought before the Council, the Workshop of the Prescott City Council held September 28, 2010, adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

MARLIN D. KUYKENDALL, Mayor

ATTEST:

ELIZABETH A. BURKE, City Clerk