

Council met in special session with the following persons present: Mayor Richard Zink, Safety-Service Director Ralph Holt, Auditor Gary Lewis and Clerk Beverly Brown.

President Richard Donley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at 130 Homestead Avenue in the Municipal Court Room.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. John Levo, Mrs. Bonnie Parr, Mr. David Shoemaker, Mr. Brian Waller, Mr. Tim Young

Absent: Mr. Lee Koogler, Mr. Charles Walker

Mr. Levo made a motion to excuse Mr. Koogler and Mr. Walker. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion and all members voted yea.

Mr. Holt explained that the reason they were at the meeting was so everyone would be able to see and grab hold of the scope of the sewer plant and how big it is. He said that they keep getting things tacked on such as the dike that they have to build which isn't the engineer's call; it's the call of the plant being in a flood area and it has to be protected. He said that he would let Allen and Randy explain it.

Allen Smith introduced himself and said that he was a Principal Project Manager for CH2MHill out of the Cincinnati office. He then introduced Randy Drazba who is also a Principal Project Manager with CH2MHill out of the Columbus office. He said that they were happy to be here and wanted to share a little bit with everyone and maybe they would come away with a little bit better understanding of what they have proposed for the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

He said, "We don't have an agenda prepared. We did bring some visual aids, however; that Randy is going to go over in just a moment. My involvement on this project up to this point in time; as I said I was one of the principal authors of the facility plan update document that was developed at the end of 2006. That pretty much charted a course for the work that we're presently engaged in now. That was approved by the Ohio EPA I believe early in 2007. After we entered into an agreement with the city to design these facilities; Randy is the one that's been heading up that effort. We're about 60% through that design. We're prepared to submit a "Permit to Install" application with the Ohio EPA who will then look over and review the drawings and hopefully approve them so we can construct the needed facilities. These facilities as you'll see are being proposed to assist the city with their growth over the next twenty years as well as to help them meet new and possibly even future regulatory requirements. So with that brief introduction, I'm ask Randy to come up. We're not going to belabor the details of this effort here, but we hope to give you an overview of the scope of the project and what we hope to accomplish."

Randy Drazba said, "Not too many people are really interested in what are the interactions going on at their utilities and often times even council people have very little limited opportunities to actually visit and see what the insides of the facility looks like, but before we get into things that you are interested in, such as the cost of the facility; we need to perhaps describe what is all involved with it. I have a diagram and it wasn't necessarily meant for such diverse audience as this; but I'm going to kind of go over this diagram so you can get a glimpse of what type of expansion we're talking about."

He explained that the hot pink represented the current facility and the blue represented the expansion. He went on to explain the process from the time the wastewater enters the facility until it leaves the facility and enters Clear Creek. He explained that the average flow of the current plant is designed for 1.2 MGD. He said they were only expanding it to 1.5 MGD. He said the current plant's peak wet weather capacity is only 3.6 MGD. The new facility will provide for a flow through capacity of 7.0 MGD. He said what really necessitates most of the expansion is providing wet weather treatment capacity.

He said the Ohio EPA requires Hillsboro to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and as a part of that requirement you have to capture and be able to treat flows from a ten-year 24-hour storm. In addition to having a peak wet flow treatment capacity of 7.0 MGD; they needed to put in a storage tank called an equalization tank. Excess flows coming in through the plant will get diverted to the equalization pump station which is an existing station but they are going to put in larger pumps and pump the flows up to the 125 foot diameter by 15 foot depth tank and that will provide 1.33 million gallons of storage capacity. After the storm waters recede, then the tank will be drained back through the treatment for processing and discharge.

Only part of the existing plant is built up to withstand a flood from Clear Creek. They are required to provide a levee that surrounds the entire facility. He said that two weeks ago they had a meeting with the city and EPA and they presented the cost. The 60% construction costs estimate that they presented at that time was \$18.5 million. They also discussed some cost saving measures and one item was the plant entrance road. Ohio EPA requires that the plant be accessed during the 25-year flood. The plant sits out on a flood plain and it's level so the road would have to be built up three foot all the way up to the YMCA. It was going to cost \$700,000 to do that so the EPA decided that there's a better way of meeting that requirement than spending \$700,000. The city has to develop a contingency plan on some methodology to get the operators in the plant during a flood condition out in this area.

He said when they did the facilities plan a number of alternatives were presented in the plan and the construction cost estimate at that time was 12 million dollars. When they did the first construction cost estimate at 30% design it was 17.3 million. The 12 million was estimated in October of last year and that was the cost estimate based upon that point in time. The 17.3 million estimate or any estimate that they have done since then including the current one, is based upon half way through the construction period. He said their design would be done at the end of next month. They will advertise the project and contractors will bid. They are trying to outguess the contractors and how they're going to bid the project.

They are estimating a two-year construction period so the contractors are going to estimate their costs at halfway through the construction. Figure the construction period will start early 2008 it will end in 2010 so midpoint of construction is 2009. They will project their estimate for their costs based upon 2009 dollars.

He said that the EPA says that they have an overabundance of funding in their division for environmental financial assistance. They will provide a hardship loan to Hillsboro at 1% interest. He said the EPA was pushing them and had pushed the design schedule up thirty days sooner so they are really scrambling to try to get the project done to meet their deadline. Now they are to complete the job by the end of September and bid it through the month of October.

Mayor Zink explained that this is partly because the money is available this year and it might not be available next year. This year they have more money than what is being requested from utility companies throughout the state of Ohio for this year. Mr. Holt asked if the 18 million included the cost of the levee and Mr. Drazba replied that they don't have a total firm cost on the levee because they have just estimated only part of the cost of the levee. He said they needed to move around 8,000 cubic yards of soil from excavating the structures on site. Then they will need another 5,000 cubic yards of material that they will need to bring in off-site to make up the rest of the levee.

Mr. Drazba explained that if they could locate a borrow pit adjacent to the treatment plant, that would reduce the costs. If they would like to develop a pond that would be the source of fill material to build the levee around the plant. President Donley asked how they determined what a ten year, 24-hour rainfall was. Mr. Smith said, "I don't know that the Ohio EPA has a hard and fast policy as to what they impose on jurisdictions like the City of Hillsboro. In this particular case however; they imposed a ten-year, 24-hour storm which is equal to about 10.99 inches of rainfall over a twenty-four period. That's a substantial rainfall. So what they're saying is...and the truth of the matter is, other locations around the state that we know of have different criteria that they've accepted to use to size facilities. In some cases it's been five-year recurrence interval instead of a ten-year. It's one of the great lessons in life; it's whatever you can negotiate. Everything is negotiable in life and in this particular case it looked to me like they pretty much dictated it was a ten-year, 24-hour storm event that we had to design for. Again, what they are looking for is no sanitary sewer overflows. Whether you treat it and store it or store it and treat it or what have you; they don't want any sanitary waste untreated going into Clear Creek.

By the way, Clear Creek is a superior, high-quality water resource. I think the city has done their due diligence over the years to maintain that high quality. If it wasn't for Brandon and his crew and those that came before him and the support from the city; I don't think it would have received that designation. There aren't many river systems in Ohio that have achieved that level of quality, so obviously you're doing a good job being environmental stewards here and taking care of that resource. They're concerned about sanitary wastewater going into that stream and the impact that it would have on that ranking."

There was additional discussion regarding some automation with the proposed system and the improved safety conditions. There would also be machinery to help facilitate removal of pumps and other material. Mr. Levo asked for the estimated useful-life of the facility and Mr. Drazba said twenty years. He said this was also because the equipment after twenty years; its useful life

is gone. He said they were putting all new aeration equipment in the tanks. He said even though some components might be galvanized steel; after twenty years there's not much left of it.

Mr. Smith said that the concrete and masonry structures will obviously last longer than twenty years. With equipment, after twenty years it becomes hard to find parts and equipment does wear out in twenty years.

Mr. Drazba said that improvements in the collection system and reduction of some of the infiltration and inflow; this plant will serve the community for many years to come. He said that the current plant was built in 1990 and at seventeen years old it has just about seen its life. Also the EPA has changed their requirements during that time and they don't care what it costs or how you fix it as long as it's fixed.

There was a question about increasing the amount of hours that there are operators at the plant and it was determined that it takes a certain amount of time for the facility to work even when the operators are offsite so it wouldn't make any difference if they were there because they couldn't do anything else to have more flow go through the plant.

Mr. Lewis said that \$18,000,000 was a lot of money even at 1% interest and he thought it might be hard for a regular person to grasp what that would cost them on a monthly basis on their bill. The gentlemen from CH2MHill are not involved in determining the increase in fees; this is something that will be determined at a later date.

Mr. Holt said that he was serious about the pond at the park that would provide material for the levee. They would need to have core samples to determine if it was suitable for the building of a levee. Mr. Drazba said that they need to have the geo-tech work done as quickly as possible because this is something that is a major part of what is included in the report to ODNR. He said if they could have them do all the samples at one time it would reduce their work and the city's costs. It would also get the information to them sooner.

There was additional discussion on some possible sites for a borrow pit. Mr. Lewis asked what obstacle they had right now that was keeping them from moving forward. Mr. Holt said that they didn't have any obstacles. He just wanted council to know what's happening and the cost. Mr. Young asked if everything keeps moving like it is; when would they anticipate ground-breaking and Mr. Drazba replied it would January of next year. In January they would be mobilizing and moving their equipment to the site. Mr. Shoemaker made a motion for Mr. Leeth and Administration to get together and allow the sample boring in anticipation of getting fill material for the levee. Mr. Young seconded the motion and all members present voted yea.

Item number two: Mr. Holt said that Mr. Coomer called and in 1991 there was a diesel tank placed at the old water plant and that feeds motors for the pumps for the new plant. They burned up a motor that feeds the diesel fuel into the building and they found that there was a crack in a plastic line going from the tank into the building. Mr. Holt told him to contact someone to fix it and nobody will touch it because there was never a permit request for that tank. He had Mr. Coomer call Columbus and they faxed him a permit request; Mr. Coomer filled it out, Mr. Holt signed it and it was sent to Columbus. At the time this was placed on the agenda Mr. Holt didn't know if he would be able to get a permit. Since then, they have been told that it will be three or four days before they receive the permit for the tank and then the people who fix tanks will come in and work on it because now we have a permit. Things will be changed because you cannot have plastic pipe from a tank to a building because of what has happened out there. It will be corrected and he wasn't sure what recourse EPA has on any spillage that occurred. He said if there was any spillage it was minimal because the crack was on top. This is just a head's up.

With no further items before the assembly, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shoemaker and seconded by Mrs. Parr. Meeting adjourned.

Richard Donley, President of Council

Beverly Brown, Secretary