

City of Stevens Point

SPECIAL JOINT COMMON COUNCIL / WATER & SEWERAGE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

**Lincoln Center
1519 Water Street**

**April 29, 2013
5:35 P.M.**

Mayor Andrew Halverson, Presiding

Council

Roll Call: Alderpersons Doxtator, Suomi, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Patton, R. Stroik, Phillips and Moore.

Excused: Alderpersons O'Meara

Water & Sewerage

Commissioners: Eugene Tubbs; Mae Nachman; Jim Cooper; Carl Rasmussen.

Excused: Commissioner Adamski

Also

Present: Mayor Halverson; Clerk Moe; City Attorney Molepske; City Attorney Elect Beveridge; C/T Elect Ladick; Directors Schatschneider, Lemke, McGinty; Chief Ruder, Kujawa; Superintendent of Streets Laidlaw; Jeremy Cramer; Dave Schleih; Preston Schleih; Brandi Makuski; Gene Kemmeter; Nathan Vine.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

2. Acceptance of a Focus on Energy Grant.

Dir. Lemke said the grant will cover 40 percent of the material costs associated with three projects: high strength waste receiving station, forced main and small lift station.

Ald. Wiza asked if the City had budgeted for the projects.

Dir. Lemke said the high strength waste receiving station was in the 2013 Capital Improvement Budget that the Commission held on until it got more information. The funds are there in the amount of \$500,000.

Ald. Wiza asked if the Commissioners are comfortable with going forward with the project.

Dir. Lemke said the original proposal was for \$500,000 for the high strength waste receiving station. The material cost of this receiving station project is \$235,000. The additional costs are for the additional other two smaller projects.

Mayor Halverson asked the Director to explain why the City should do this and how it benefits us.

Dir. Lemke said it is basically for energy savings. The ability to receive high strength waste and to store it without slug-loading our system gives the City the ability to feed waste into our digestion process at a controlled rate. This produces methane which we can use to generate electricity. Without the ability to store it, the City currently has to flare off the methane when too much is created which is a waste of energy. This is about storing high strength waste until we can use it at a controlled and metered rate.

The forced main and the lift station at the Brewery will give us the ability to separate the waste at the Brewery and bring the stuff that is high strength into our process and allow the rest of the waste to go through the plant as normal.

Mayor Halverson asked Dir. Lemke to speak on the cost share proposal to the Brewery.

Dir. Lemke said the \$114,000 is 40 percent of the total material cost of \$285,000 for all three projects combined. Once we have a better idea of the total cost through a bid process, we'll see what that part of the project will cost. The City can then discuss and address cost sharing with the Brewery.

Ald. Wiza asked if the City will eventually produce revenue.

Dir. Lemke said the system will allow them to generate more consistent electricity. Hopefully the generator will be running full capacity when this is done. The big advantage is that we are keeping this high strength waste out of our aeration process, which is a huge energy hog at that the plant. By keeping this type of waste out of the aeration process we create more capacity which potentially can save millions of dollars by forestalling the need to expand. It is important to look at the growth of a community and how it is played out at our treatment plant. If we have a place to receive this high strength waste, the City will not have as urgent a need to increase this portion of the plant.

Ald. Phillips asked what would be the payback for all this investment.

Dir. Lemke said just under four years.

Ald. Trzebiatowski asked about methane storage and an explosion proof storage area.

Dir. Lemke said with this project we would be storing the high strength waste and they are already storing methane. One of our three digesters has a floating roof built into it that stores the methane. The City is not increasing gas storage just liquid storage.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, Ald. Moore seconded, to accept the Focus on Energy Grant in the amount of \$114,000.

Commissioner Nachman **moved**, Commissioner Cooper seconded, to accept the Focus on Energy Grant in the amount of \$114,000.

Ayes all; nays none. Motion adopted.

Ald. Suomi commended the staff on their work and effort in bringing this grant to the City.

Call for the Council Vote:

Roll Call: Ayes: Alderpersons Moore, Phillips, R. Stroik, Patton, Trzebiatowski, Slowinski, M. Stroik, Wiza, Suomi and Doxtator.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

The Water & Sewerage Commissioners meeting adjourned at 5:46 P.M.

3. Actions taken at the Special Personnel meeting of April 29, 2013.

Clerk Moe reviewed the action taken at the Special Personnel meeting.

Ald. Slowinski asked if this person is hired now and the transfer takes place, will there be an extended probation period.

Dir. McGinty said she did not think so.

Mayor Halverson said this person would be treated no differently than any other City employee transferring over to the County.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, Ald. Trzebiatowski seconded, to approve the Actions taken at the Special Personnel meeting of April 29, 2013. Ayes all; nays none. Motion adopted.

4. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 5:40 p.m.) pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) and (g) to deliberate and negotiate whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – Joint Dispatch Agreement with Portage County and to confer with legal counsel with respect to Personnel litigation in which the City is involved; and possible action in closed session relating to Personnel litigation in which the City is involved.

Ald. Patton **moved**, Ald. Slowinski seconded, to enter into closed session.

Roll Call: Ayes: Alderpersons Doxtator, Suomi, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Patton, R. Stroik, Phillips and Moore.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

5. Reconvene into open session (approximately 6:10 p.m.) for possible action on Joint Dispatch Agreement with Portage County.

Council reconvened into open session at 7:36 p.m.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, Ald. Doxtator seconded, to send the current draft of the agreement for the Portage County dispatch center to the City Police and Fire Commission for review and comment and they in turn send it to the Council in May for consideration.

Ayes majority; nays minority. Motion adopted.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.