

The McAlester City Council met in a special session on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 6:00 P.M. after proper notice and agenda was posted Friday, November 9, 2007, at 11:30 A.M.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order. Council Roll Call was as follows:

Present: Weldon Smith, Buddy Garvin, Travis Read, Haven Wilkinson, Sam Mason and Don Lewis  
Absent: Donnie Condit  
Presiding: Don Lewis, Mayor

Staff Present: George Marcangeli, City Engineer; David Medley, Assistant City Engineer, Robert Ivester, City Attorney and Cora Middleton, City Clerk

### **SCHEDULED BUSINESS**

- 1. Discussion, and possible action on the NRS Consulting Engineers Report on the McAlester Water Treatment Plant System.** (*George Marcangeli, City Engineer and Robert Vaughan, NRS, Inc.*)

Mayor Lewis made a short statement regarding the subject of the meeting and then asked George Marcangeli to be available to answer questions.

George Marcangeli stated that on August 28, 2007, the Council had authorized hiring NRS Engineering to perform an evaluation of the water treatment plant and its' operations and to prepare a cost estimate of improvements. He stated that the evaluation had been completed and he then introduced four gentlemen from NRS, who were Robert Vaughan, Dale Burke, Robert Mullins and Nate Osborne. He stated that Robert Vaughan would make the presentation. He also stated that three gentlemen from Municipal Finance would be at the meeting later to help answer questions concerning funding sources.

Robert Vaughan stated that he was the project manager for the evaluation. He then gave a power point presentation of the evaluation that NRS had conducted of the Water Treatment Plant System. During this presentation Mr. Vaughan explained the two (2) DEQ Consent Orders that the City was currently under. He explained the information that had been used for the evaluation and gave the historical performance of the plant. He stated that the City's water system serves a population of approximately 18,000 with approximately 8,000 service connections plus several Rural Water Districts. He stated that the 2000 census projected the population to increase to 19,910 by the year 2030 which was an approximate growth of 12%. He stated that the current water usage on an average day was 5.04 million gallons per day (MGD) and the maximum usage was 8.28 MGD. Mr. Vaughan added that the projected usage was 12% higher in 2030 (or 5.65 MGD average daily use) with a maximum usage of 9.27 MGD.

Mr. Vaughan reviewed the water sources that were available to the City of McAlester. These included Lake McAlester, Lake Talawanda #1, Lake Talawanda #2 and Eufaula Lake. He stated

that the City was not currently using any of the sources except for Lake McAlester. He added that the evaluation of the water sources had not been within the scope of the evaluation but they should be evaluated with further studies.

Mr. Vaughan then reviewed sampling procedures for the evaluation. He stated that while Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) was on the filters the City was in compliance through 2006. He added that GAC only lasts so long and in 2007 the plant compliance fell. He reviewed some of the problems with the plant equipment one of which was its inability to vary the depth of water intake from its' water sources. He added that the clarifiers had problems such as corrosion and leaks in the walls. He commented that the Chlorine gas equipment had many problems. The equipment had been in service 20 plus years, the cylinders were in the same area as the employees and there was a foundation problem. Mr. Vaughan stated that the staffing had only been budgeted for 8 employees which was one per shift. He recommended that the City have ten (10) employees with two (2) employees per shift.

Mr. Vaughan reviewed the two options that NRS would recommend for the City to choose from. The first option was to make operational changes for Enhanced Coagulation. This option had an estimated project cost of \$600,000.00. The second option was to install three new improved clarifiers. The estimated project cost for this option was \$4,820,000.00.

There were several questions from the Council directed to the staff and the consultants regarding the water sources, the projected increases, the existing lines within the City, the difference in cost of each option, if there was any type of warranty on equipment that might be replaced and the timing involved with each option corresponding with the consent orders.

Bob Basolo of SW Chemicals addressed the Council suggesting that they look into pressure vessels. He stated that they extended the life of the GAC and they might be an insurance policy for the City.

Steve Harrison addressed the Council thanking them for having the study done and he would like to see the same approach taken for other infrastructure problems. He asked why the projections went out to 2030. And if the plant would last that long with regular maintenance.

Mr. Vaughan stated that the plant should last that long with regular maintenance and you have to look at a 20 year life.

Mel Stubbings addressed the Council stating that the City needed to prioritize its problems by critical need and that currently the City would be unable to fund the \$3.6 million.

Hollis Hall addressed that Council stating that she liked Option 1 and the City needed to check into how long it would take to realign the lines. She added that some of the lines in the City could be 50 to 80 years old.

Mayor Lewis asked Rick Smith with Municipal Finance to speak to the Council regarding the financing options that the City might have available.

Mr. Smith stated that he did not have a presentation but he had been very interested in the presentation by NRS. He stated that the Council might want to look at the budget to see if there might be enough funds available for the \$600,000.00. He stated that for the \$3.2 million they

could look at ways to finance. He reviewed the current financing issues that the City faced and stated that his company did have a team prepared to help when the Council made their decision if necessary.

There were several questions from the Council directed to Mr. Smith regarding the financing options. One question was if this project could qualify to use economic development funds.

Mr. Smith stated that would be a question for the City Attorney to review and answer.

Mayor Lewis thanked both groups for being at the meeting and he asked Mr. Roath, with the aid of the Engineering Department, to look into the realignment question that had been discussed.

There was no further discussion, and the vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Smith, Read, Wilkinson, Garvin, Mason & Mayor Lewis

NAY: None

Mayor Lewis declared the motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Smith moved for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Councilman Read. The vote was taken as follows:

AYE: Councilman Read, Wilkinson, Garvin, Mason, Smith & Mayor Lewis

NAY: None

Mayor Lewis declared the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Don R. Lewis, Mayor

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Cora Middleton, City Clerk