

April 24, 2006

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Knowles presiding and members Askren, Tucker, Rueger, Angel, and Cooper attending. Others attending were Attorney Funkhouser; Attorney Higgins; Comm. Epison; Supt. Gray; Chief Webber; Chief Beloit; Larry Williams; Steve Hahn; Vicki Peerman; Mike Brown - Mount Vernon Jaycees; Tiffani Eisenhut - Mount Vernon Democrat; and arriving during the meeting, Firemen Harms and Riggs; and Belinda Jones.

Mayor Knowles called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. She added if not, she entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilwoman Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilman Rueger.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knowles requested action on the claims presented.

Councilman Cooper moved the claim presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Councilman Angel.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*CLAIMS\*\*\*\*\*

Water Operating & Maintenance \$11,635.79

Water Consumer Meter Deposit 80.00

Mayor Knowles reminded the Audience that anyone wishing to address the Board should approach the podium and state their name and the nature of their business.

Mayor Knowles stated they will now hear the report of the Water Superintendent.

Supt. Gray reported that the state conducted a Sanitary Survey in 2002, and again in 2006, and there are issues that need addressed. He added that some of the 2002 issues in the survey have also not yet been addressed. He went on to say that the city never turned in their pilot study on the KROFTA's, and the city never received it's NPDES permit to dispose of backwash water into the river though that will be done by May of this year. He also stated cross connections had not yet been addressed, though they are doing that now; and

security devices (cameras, etc.) were not in place, though that has also been taken care of. He added the state also has an issue with the fencing around the plant, though there is not much they can do about that due to the railroad tracks. He then stated he has put together a contingency plan and given copies to Chiefs Webber and Beloit as well as Larry Robb, and distribution maps will be turned in along with the water modeling information. He added once the water modeling is complete, he will get all that information to the state.

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Councilwoman Askren asked when that would be completed ?

Supt. Gray replied soon, though there are also other issues on the 2006 Sanitary Survey list as well. He added that gas heater he has mentioned to the Board previously is now disabled and disconnected and they started on the enclosure and the switches have already been replaced. As for the chemical feed lines, he stated he needs to wait until warmer weather to start on them, they need to also be clearly labeled.

Firemen Harms and Riggs arrived at the meeting.

Supt. Gray continued by stating they started on the short wall for the spill basins in the chemical room today, as well as around the carbon slurry tank. He added the drain for the clear well is also being addressed.

Belinda Jones arrived at the meeting.

Supt. Gray then stated as for the licensed operators, they have two now and Mr. Hansen will be certified in August, with two others yet to pass the test. Once they have passed, he added, he will have an operator to cover every shift, they are trying to comply.

Supt. Gray continued by stating turbidity is an issue for the state as well and it is also on the list to be addressed. He also added there is water in the lamella room and the state also wants the city to account for its water losses. He added they are really wanting the city to locate every water valve in the city, which he figures he will wait and address that during fire plug flushing this summer. He also added the Keck Booster station needs replaced, and they are doing what they can on that.

Mayor Knowles added some of that information may turn up during the water modeling that is being done by Clark Dietz.

Supt. Gray stated the state also has issues with their mesh plastic screen on the tanks and the city's emergency contingency plan, as well as having the white tank painted.

Mayor Knowles agreed that project had been put on hold to devote money to the filters.

Supt. Gray stated that as for the leaks the April 11 survey done by IRWA, found 31 potential leaks in town. He added most were from fire plugs that don't seal properly. He went on to say that as for the sludge/backwash issue, their permit only allows them to put so much turbidity back into the system and he may have the answer to that. He stated he has come across some bags that are used to collect the sludge and filter out the water. He added two bags would last a year and the cost is around \$3,000 each.

Mayor Knowles stated it is the same concept as the old drying beds at the wastewater treatment plant, but Supt. Gray could haul them off. She added the bags sounds like a wonderful idea.

Supt. Gray added it is also a cheap fix and would get the state off the city's back.

Mayor Knowles added that Supt. Givens stated the only problem with the old drying beds is that the sludge was hard to get out of the bed. She added again the bags sound like an excellent idea.

Supt. Gray added that Mr. Jackson of Moore & Associates says it looks like a good system.

Councilman Rueger asked if any other communities use them ?

Supt. Gray replied he is not sure, he has not contacted any. He again added it is a low tech solution. He then stated he has given up some area for raw materials, but he feels he could support the bags, as it doesn't matter if they are level or not.

Mayor Knowles wondered it they could cause a cave in ?

Supt. Gray replied they could cause the earth to move a bit.

Councilman Cooper stated he would for Supt. Gray to find another community that is using the bags, though it does sound like a good idea.

Mayor Knowles agreed he should try to contact some other communities that are using these gas tubes.

Councilman Rueger also suggested that once he does that, Supt. Gray should also run it by the state for compliance reasons.

Councilman Angel wondered if they drove some iron beams in to help support the bags would that prevent them from sliding ?

Supt. Gray replied that is pretty soft ground and he is not sure how deep he might have to go.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any other place to put them ?

Supt. Gray replied no.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Knowles asked about the Financial Report.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied she did received it Friday and it was fine, though she has not yet made copies for the Board.

Mayor Knowles asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Knowles asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

Attorney Higgins stated she has a carry over from the last meeting, the Black Township Fire & Rescue water agreement.

Mr. Hahn approached the podium and stated there is nothing new to add, he is just requesting the water tap.

Attorney Higgins added they are requesting a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter for potable water and a 2" meter for tank fillings. She added their paperwork is complete, Supt. Gray has seen the paperwork, and it is now ready for signatures.

Board then signed the Agreement.

Mayor Knowles asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Knowles stated under Old Business, who will be attending the next update meeting ?

Councilman Rueger and Councilwoman Rueger both stated they would attend.

Councilman Angel stated he would like Attorney Higgins to look into what the Board can do to make Mayor Knowles a voting member of the Board, as she does get the phone calls.

Attorney Higgins replied she has pulled the statute and she will be drafting the Board a letter outlining the four options. She added she will also copy Attorney Funkhouser and Mayor Knowles. She then stated one option would require a referendum vote, as the Board may need to be reorganized.

Mayor Knowles asked if all the option require that ?

Attorney Higgins replied yes, as per the Indiana Code, reorganization.

Mayor Knowles stated the 1937 ordinance dissolved the Utility Service Board and there was no referendum.

Attorney Higgins replied some laws were repealed in 1983, but there are options out there.

Mayor Knowles stated it matters not to her what the Board decides, it would just mean less headaches for her.

Attorney Higgins stated she will get a letter out to everyone soon.

Mayor Knowles asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Knowles stated if there was no further business, she entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Rueger moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilman Angel.

Mayor Knowles stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, she reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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Rosemary L. Knowles

Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe

Clerk-Treasurer