

MINUTES

Eugene City Council
Wastewater Treatment Plant
410 river Avenue

October 11, 1995
11:30 a.m.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Nancy Nathanson, Tim Laue, Shawn Boles, Pat Farr, Kevin Hornbuckle, Barbara Keller, Laurie Swanson Gribkov, Jim Torrey.

The adjourned meeting of October 9, 1995, of the Eugene City Council was called to order by Her Honor Mayor Ruth Bascom.

I. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Nathanson moved, seconded by Mr. Laue to approve the order of the agenda. The motion passed 7:1; with Ms. Keller opposed.

Ms. Keller said she was led to believe that this would be a short meeting and will leave at 1 p.m. due to other commitments.

II. ITEMS FROM THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND THE CITY MANAGER

A. EMERGENCY CAMPING ORDINANCE

Mr. Farr asked the officers to consider scheduling a work session on an emergency camping ordinance. Mayor Bascom said the issue would be discussed at the end of this item, time permitting.

B. Growth Management Study

Mr. Farr said the public involvement component of the Growth Management Study included an extensive program; however, some members of the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) believed that instead of the Planning Commission being the oversight body, it should be a 15-member committee composed of the seven citizen planning commissioners, four members of the neighborhood groups, and four from the voters pool. He asked the council to reaffirm its desire to have the Planning Commission oversee the study. Mayor Bascom said the issue would be discussed at the end of the item, time permitting.

C. Voter's Pamphlet

Mr. Hornbuckle said he has only received one response to his memorandum on the

voter's pamphlet and councilors have until October 12 to give input and have the information go out in the next council packet.

D. Community Survey

Mr. Boles said Mayor Bascom's suggestion to include questions on the refinement on Ferry Street Bridge (FSB) in the community survey makes sense.

E. Citizen Land Use Conference

Mr. Boles indicated that he will be attending the Citizen Land Use Conference October 14 and offered to car pool with others interested in attending.

F. West End Planning Committee

Ms. Nathanson and Mr. Hornbuckle said they would be unable to attend the next meeting of the West End Planning Committee.

G. Council Committee on Automation

Ms. Nathanson said the Council Committee on Automation has not met recently, but she will work with staff to devise questions that get at the community's automation needs for inclusion in the community survey.

H. Council Committee on Public Safety (CCPS)

Ms. Swanson Gribkov said she and Mr. Laue have been attending meetings of the Lane County Leadership Team as directed by the council and those discussions will be shared with the CCPS at its October 12 meeting.

I. Community Partnership for Gang Prevention

Ms. Swanson Gribkov said the Executive Committee for the Community Partnership for Gang Prevention will schedule within the next couple of months community information forums made possible by a \$25,000 technical grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

J. St. Vincent de Paul Bagley Downs Low-Income Housing Project

Ms. Keller asked the council to accept an application to contract for services from St. Vincent de Paul to cover permit fees for the Bagley Downs Project. There was consensual support.

K. Public Safety Issue

Mr. Torrey said he attended a neighborhood area meeting of citizens to the north of Sheldon High School who expressed concern that a public walkway/bikepath is being used as a hangout by youth who are harassing younger children. He has asked CCPS to suggest solutions, adding that it is not clear if the City or School District 4J is responsible for activities taking place at the site. Mr. Torrey said the school disallows smoking on campus but takes

no action off the grounds. The issue was flagged for discussion at the end of the agenda item, time permitting.

L. Council Committee on Environment and Economics (CCEE)

Mr. Torrey said the CCEE's charge is unclear and asked that officers and CCEE chair, Ms. Keller, meet to clarify the council's expectation of the committee. The issue was flagged for discussion at the end of the agenda item, time permitting.

M. Irkutsk Drama Theatre

Mayor Bascom announced a play by the Irkutsk Drama Theatre on October 21 and 22, adding that the group will visit the October 25 council meeting.

N. The Rickies Eugene Celebration Parade Issue

Mayor Bascom said the Rickies issue would be discussed during the joint meeting with the Human Rights Commission on October 23.

O. National Community Policing

Mr. Laue said he would distribute information that he received at a national conference on community policing in Portland two weeks ago, which echoes the discussions the council has held on taking a more system-wide approach.

P. Sheriff's Levy

Mr. Laue said he delivered the council's message about its unwillingness to buy off on the proposed Sheriff's levy, but support a long-term solution, perhaps a consolidation of services on a metro-wide or region-wide basis. He added that a committee has formed around Senate Bill 1145 to discuss its impacts.

Q. Lorane Highway

Mr. Laue reported on an October 10 community information meeting about Lorane Highway, adding that he will meet with the Design Review Committee next and the neighborhood association the week after that.

There being sufficient time, the council returned to flagged items.

A. Emergency Camping Ordinance (Continued)

Mr. Boles said he is supportive of the council's October 9 discussion around the issue and suggested the City attempt a joint set of ordinances with the City of Springfield. If that fails, the City can move forward with its own ordinance.

Mr. Farr moved, seconded by Ms. Swanson Gribskov, that the Council Officers schedule a work session on relaxing the emergency camping

ordinance.

Mr. Torrey asked that Lane County be included in the discussion and that the full range of issues be discussed.

Mr. Laue said the discussion should not be limited to relaxing the camping ban in Eugene, adding that allowing camping on private property is another issue. He asked the council to look at the problem in the larger context. Both the maker of the motion and the second agreed.

Ms. Keller said the work session was for a short-term problem (winter camping), adding that she hoped the council would delineate the long-term issues as well.

Ms. Nathanson asked that staff include the notes on the previous work she and Ms. Keller had done, particularly around land use and zoning, as background material for the discussion.

Ms. Swanson Gribkov asked for statistics on camping arrests as part of the staff briefing on the issue.

The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

B. Growth Management Study (Continued)

Mr. Boles said the proposed citizen involvement plan for the Growth Management Study makes sense, but suggested an additional phase to dissuade CIC concerns: in conjunction with each phase, the council do a checkback with the CIC to see how well that phase worked and whether adjustments need to be made. Mr. Boles wondered if a split vote on that committee really informed the council. Ms. Keller said the committee should be instructed to resolve its members differences before making recommendations to the council.

Mr. Farr moved, seconded by Mr. Torrey, that the council reaffirm its instructions to the Planning Commission to serve as the oversight body for the Growth Management Study; and that a report be forwarded to the CIC.

Mr. Farr explained that the first motion the CIC entertained was to accept the proposed citizen involvement plan, and it failed due to a split vote. The second CIC motion proposing a 15-member committee (seven planning commissioners, four neighborhood representatives, and four members from the voters pool) passed unanimously. Mr. Farr said that after further consideration, he has decided the best approach is the original proposal and urged the council to reaffirm its position.

Mr. Hornbuckle said he agreed with everything in the original plan except for the focus groups, which he viewed as inefficient and unfair. He questioned the need for reports from the CIC on the different phases and added that split votes did not bother him because they in themselves are informative.

Ms. Keller moved the question. The motion to vote immediately passed, 7:1; with Mr. Boles opposed.

The main motion passed, 7:1; with Mr. Boles opposed.

N. Public Safety Issue (Continued)

Mr. Torrey suggested that the issue of harassment by youth near Sheldon High School be referred to the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC).

Mr. Boles said that if the issue has to do with jurisdictional responsibility, it should be referred to the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee for discussion with the school district.

Ms. Nathanson said what seemed more important was the harassment or intimidation of other kids and asked that that issue also be addressed.

Mr. Torrey agreed that it was appropriate to refer it to the IGR Committee.

Mr. Farr noted that it was a metrowide problem, having also received complaints about Willamette High.

O. Council Committee on Environment and Economics (CCEE)

Mr. Laue asked Mr. Boles to outline for the council his proposal as a place to open the discussion. Mr. Boles said he has not had a chance to discuss it with the committee, adding that he hoped Ms. Keller would schedule a meeting to discuss the issue. Ms. Keller said she preferred to discuss Mr. Boles' proposal with him before scheduling a meeting. Mr. Boles agreed.

III. INFORMATION BRIEFING: METROPOLITAN WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Chris Andersen, Public Works Director, welcomed the council and introduced the topic, including the historical context, a briefing on the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, and the City's role in that. She emphasized what a valuable City asset the wastewater plant was. Ms. Andersen noted that in 1982, the policy bodies decided to divide the functional responsibility of the operation between the cities of Eugene and Springfield, with Eugene operating and maintaining the plant and Springfield providing administrative support.

Peter Ruffier, Wastewater Director, described the plant and its treatment processes.

Addressing questions from Mr. Boles, Mr. Ruffier said staff projects \$25.5 million in replacement expenditures through the year 2,005 and user rates are designed to meet that cost. There is a \$500,000 annual infrastructure reconstruction and rehab cost that also must be met.

In response to a question from Ms. Swanson Gribbskov, Mr. Ruffier said that the

plant is self-supporting through user fees.

Responding to follow-up questions from Mr. Boles, Mr. Ruffier said the plant projects a 4 percent increase in costs annually, but increases in residential rates may be put off for several years, pending no changes in State or Federal treatment standards. Mr. Boles asked for a copy of the current rate structure and wondered how industrial users were treated. Mr. Ruffier said industrial rates were based on wastewater strength and volume, while residential rates were based on volume.

Ms. Nathanson wondered if studies had been made to assess the impact of implementing the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (CSWMP). Mr. Ruffier said that CSWMP removed some areas in the urban growth boundary from development, reducing future discharges to the plant and extending capacity. Mr. Gleason added that CSWMP has kept the costs of infiltration and inflow (I and I) constant over the previous plans and the current policy of dealing with water quality as much as possible in the natural ecosystem will, in the long run, reduce potential costs. Ms. Andersen said CSWMP is a different issue as it deals with the storm sewer system.

Mr. Ruffier explained the use of the two different capacity limits based on wet and dry periods, noting that there was only one episode in the last ten years where City discharged raw sewage into the river for eight hours. He said that there was also still one point where the sanitary and storm sewer systems interconnect and that heavy rainfall may force sanitary overflow into the storm system--this has occurred twice in the last three years. Mr. Gleason added that a report to the Department of Environmental Quality is required after each episode.

Ms. Keller left the meeting.

Mr. Boles left the room.

Mr. Ruffier said the commission's master plan has projected future needs and these needs should be met through the year 2,020 with the existing treatment facility. Addressing a question from Ms. Keller, Mr. Ruffier said that capacity would be reduced with the addition of Hyundai, but without additional information on waste volume and characteristics it is not possible to quantify by how much.

In response to a question from Ms. Nathanson, Mr. Ruffier said he was unsure about the progress the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) had made with its conservation programs, but he understood EWEB was planning more aggressive actions; although it appears the water treatment plant may reach its full capacity before the wastewater treatment plant does. Ms. Nathanson concluded that the plant's projection was optimistic, given EWEB's position.

Mr. Boles returned to the meeting.

Addressing a question from Mr. Torrey, Mr. Ruffier confirmed that the City through its pretreatment permitting process ensures that Federal maximum

pollutant limit requirements are met. Mr. Boles said that the City nonetheless permits projects that speed up replacement points. Mr. Gleason added that projects that push those limits pay a premium and the income from user fees then becomes an offset on the capital side. Mr. Boles urged sending that message out to projects early enough to avoid degrading the forecasted capacity of the plant.

Mr. Ruffier reviewed projects in progress and potential future projects stressing the importance of developing and maintaining neighbors' goodwill.

Addressing a question from Mayor Bascom, Mr. Ruffier said there was a sufficient market for all of the biosolids processed the City needed to increase production to keep up with the output from the treatment plant. Programs were being developed to diversify and increase biosolids products.

Mr. Boles noted that EWEB had applied conservation measures to its own plants and wondered if staff had thought of adapting programs such as that for the wastewater plant. Mr. Ruffier said staff has researched water reclamation and is practicing reuse such as replacing potable water for cooling and irrigation.

Mr. Ruffier said contamination by metals was a major problem in chemical analyses and mitigation measures and developing laboratory "clean techniques" for overcoming that problem were costly. The alternative to having accurate analytical data was having to treat for metals or getting false numbers. He indicated that metals would be addressed during the next permit renewal process, which will be water-quality based.

Mr. Boles made the point that odor control has to do, at least in part, to new development and the council might consider that during its discussion of systems development charges (SDCs).

At Mr. Farr's request, plant staff were introduced. The council expressed appreciation for the presentation and commended the staff.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Gleason
City Manager

(Recorded by Yolanda Paule)
cc113011.105