

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA
May 15, 2017

Southwest Business Products E1505510LD

Pursuant to notice as required by law, the Ponca City Board of Commissioners met in work session at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber at City Hall, 516 E. Grand Avenue, with Mayor Homer Nicholson presiding:

Present: Homer Nicholson, Mayor
Shasta Scott, Commissioner
Ryan Austin, Commissioner
Lanita Chapman, Commissioner
Nancy Rathbun, Commissioner
Craig Stephenson, City Manager
Michael Vanderburg, City Attorney
Marc LaBossiere, Finance Director/City Clerk

Absent: None

Others Present: Hong Fu, Darwin Haney, Phil Johnston, Dave Williams, Don Bohon, John Andrew, Tana McKinley, Eric Newell, City staff; Beverly Bryant, TEAM Radio, Steve Dye, Ponca City News.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. DISCUSS THE BOIS D'ARC INTERCEPTOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

City Manager Craig Stephenson explained that this wastewater collection project is due to a recent discovery by staff, and deferred to Environmental Services Director Hong Fu to explain the project. Fu began a powerpoint presentation noting that the pipe in question starts at Waverly and goes east through the south end of the P66 tank farm and connects at a point just west of the Wastewater Plant. Fu qualified that the pipe is concrete, 45 years old, includes varying sizes ranging from 18 to 24 inches, and due to a corrosive environment has softened and eroded.

Fu proposed a supplemental budget appropriation be put in place to hire an engineer to go through process of required environmental work and design. Once that is completed, the City will know the recommended replacement method that will probably include a 24" collection line for the duration of the 10,000 foot run. At that time a second supplemental appropriation will be requested to fund the construction. Stephenson noted there is a similar 3,500 feet of concrete collection pipe north of the lift station, but staff has been unable to inspect it due to wet conditions from recent heavy rains. Discussion ensued.

3. DISCUSS A PROJECT FOR RECYCLING WATER AND IMPROVING SOLIDS HANDLING AT PONCA CITY WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

Environmental Services Director Hong Fu explained there are several goals in the proposed project, to recycle water at the water plant, to improve sludge handling, and to reduce backwash water flow to the Wastewater Plant. Fu then went through a powerpoint presentation illustrating the water treatment process. Next, Fu qualified the scope of project, including improvements to solids handling and decant water. Fu explained that the sludge is eventually used by area farmers to enhance their soil.

Fu then explained some operational challenges on the plant site and reviewed a map of a possible future site plan. Fu clarified that benefits of the project could include a reduce need for raw water pumping from the water well field and a corresponding decrease in need for new water wells, conservation of raw water, and reduced treatment costs at the wastewater plant. Fu made a staff recommendation to use existing budgeted funds for engineering of sludge drying beds, for preliminary engineering of this proposed project. Discussion ensued.

4. DISCUSS THE CITY'S WI-FI SYSTEM.

City Manager Craig Stephenson began, reminding commissioners that the City built a Wi-Fi network 9 years ago, and at this time it is aging and in need of capital upgrade. Technology Services Director Dave Williams continued with a more detailed history of the project which was done through Honeywell and included 483 radios, blanketing approximately 60 square miles, at a cost of \$2.3M. Williams then reviewed circumstances where radios incur damage.

Williams continued, emphasizing that the system is now 9 years old, and the vendor has declared the software at end of life. Staff recommends upgrading the software and purchasing 125 new Wi-Fi radios. With the new radios, 15 will replace working radios that are too old to work with the new software, 70 will replace existing broken ones, leaving 40 for inventory when future failures occur, at a total cost of \$391,000. Williams qualified that the new radios require power, so if there is no power at the radio site, it may be at a little additional cost.

Williams qualified that the proposed upgrade will not expand the existing footprint, and that a substantial savings will be realized by buying in bulk. He also stated that the upgrade will bring the Wi-Fi system to a state that will be as good as it has ever been, but not necessarily better. The model of radios proposed are on sale and will be end of life 5 years from when final unit is sold by the manufacturer or the end of 2017, whichever comes first. Discussion ensued.

5. DISCUSS THE REPLACEMENT OF GEN 1 SENSUS ELECTRIC METERS AND RELATED SOFTWARE UPDATE.

City Manager Craig Stephenson reminded all of the Honeywell efficiency project done in 2007, which included replacement of all water and electric meters allowing for remote reading of usages. The electric meters used were Generation 1 from Sensus, and have had some functionality issues from the beginning. After several years of discussions on a fix, the City has an opportunity to purchase enough meters to replace all residential ones in the system at a greatly reduced cost, and the reading software needs to be upgraded as well.

Ponca City Energy General Manager Phil Johnston continued, detailing the proposed fix that includes the purchase of 12,500 residential meters at one-third of their list price, which amounts to just under \$400,000, and will be done over a multi-year period. Johnston qualified that the department would have bought some meters each year anyway in the course of normal business. The proposed project includes a new base station at a cost of approximately \$27,000, along with the required software upgrade that will be maintained by Sensus in the cloud, at a cost of approximately \$56,000 per year. For that, Sensus stores our data and upgrades software as available. Johnston summed the project up at a total projected cost of approximately \$500,000 over a 3 year period. Discussion ensued

6. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS.

Commissioner Chapman questioned the value of further capital investment in the free Wi-Fi system going forward, as it did not fully do what we had hoped it to do from the beginning. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Austin invited all to the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 to be hosted by First National Bank of Oklahoma. Austin noted they will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary as well.

7. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS.

City Manager Craig Stephenson informed all that there is the potential for severe weather this week, starting on Tuesday evening. The greatest risk is for Thursday with a dry line developing mid-afternoon in Western Oklahoma. He encouraged all to be weather aware.

Stephenson then announced that splash pads in War Memorial Park and Dan Moran Park, along with the fountain in the Veterans Plaza opened today. The AMBUC and Wentz Pools will open on May 29 at 1:00 PM. Stephenson expressed a hope to have the repairs and maintenance completed on the fountain in Centennial Plaza, in front of City Hall, completed and operational by the end of May.

Stephenson relayed that the week of May 15th is Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, and is an observance in the United States that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal peace officers who have died or have been disabled in the line of duty.

Mayor Nicholson concluded with news that he would be out of town during the following week, representing the City at an event, so Vice Mayor Rathbun would be filling in during his absence.

8. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Austin to adjourn. Commissioner Rathbun seconded.

Roll: Austin, Rathbun, Nicholson, Scott, Chapman. Nays; None. Motion carried.

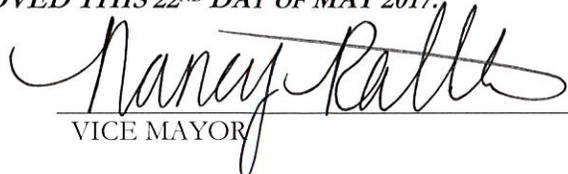
Mayor Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

PASSED IN SESSION AND APPROVED THIS 22ND DAY OF MAY 2017.

ATTEST



DEPUTY CITY CLERK


VICE MAYOR

