

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
June 3, 2024
City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steve King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Laura Helle, Geoff Baker, Michael Postma, Joyce Poshusta, Jason Baskin, and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Jason Sehon, Human Resources Director Tricia Wiechmann, and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Mark Nibaur & Alex Bumgardner from Austin Utilities

Mayor Steve King opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Item No. 1 PEAK Natural Gas Prepay Extension Ordinance Review

Austin Utilities General Manager Mark Nibaur and Utility Operations Director Alex Bumgardner spoke to the Council about extending a six-year contract with Public Energy Authority of Kentucky (PEAK). This is their supplier of natural gas.

They stated the pricing resets every six years and the agreements have hit a reset point and they are looking to renew this contract. The minimum discount is set at \$0.20/MMBTU; if this level is not achieved, Austin Utilities has the option to leave the deal for the established reset period.

Mr. Nibaur stated an ordinance approved by Council is required for any contracts over five years. He is requesting Council approval of this ordinance.

Council Member Baker recommended this as a good deal and encouraged the Council to approve.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin to review and approve a PEAK Natural Gas Prepay Extension Ordinance. Carried.

The item will be on the June 17, 2024 Council Agenda.

Item No. 2. Oakland Avenue/1st Avenue Project Update

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum gave an update on the Oakland Avenue/1st Avenue SW Project. He stated the City received a \$1,500,000 state grant through the Local Road

Improvement Program (LRIP), and a \$300,000 state grant through Active Transportation (AT) Program. Lastly, the City will receive \$1,000,000 in federal STIP funds in 2028 and these funds will be used on eligible items on the 1st Avenue SW portion of the project.

To date Mr. Wenum has secured \$7,860,000 in state and federal funds for this project. This is approximately 55% of the costs. The total cost of the project is \$14,200,000 over three years.

Mr. Wenum stated WHKS will have 60% of the plans completed in the next couple of weeks. Council will then be able to get their first real detailed look at the proposal. He did speak with Firestone per Council's direction about the road turning into a one-way in front of their business and Firestone stated they would not be opposed to the road changes in front of their business location.

This item is for informational purposes and no action required.

Item No. 3 Waste Water Treatment Plant Change Order Update #4

Director of Public Works Steven Lang gave a quarterly update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He presented 11 work change directives. The total amount of the changes is \$952,622.00. This is a \$515,627.78 cost increase to the Domestic budget and a \$436,994.22 cost increase to the Industrial budget.

Council Member Baker requested that Mr. Lang take him on a tour of the Waster Water Treatment Plant to help better explain why Mr. Lang needs these changes and what the changes entail.

Mr. Lang stated he is able to do that and also gave information on change order #66. He stated the City used to have a sand drying bed with tiles on the bottom. This drying bed dated back to the 1930's and this is where solids and liquids would be dumped.

The solids would be captured by the sand and the liquids would drain through. The liquid is then carried back to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. With today's requirements, they are no longer allowed to have a clay bottom. A concrete bottom is required to ensure liquids are not getting into the groundwater.

Mr. Lang stated the old facility was removed during the reconstruction of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant and they are planning on rebuilding a smaller facility in its place. This would include a 75' by 150' concrete pad that will have a sand filter bedding in it. It will allow solids and liquids to be dumped and handled properly.

Mr. Lang gave information about change order #56. He stated this is in relation to the biosolids handling building. Currently, they are hauling biosolids as 2% solid, so they are hauling a lot of water. The new process will reduce the water.

They will also have a rotary press that will squeeze out the water and then the solids will be stored in an adjacent building. There will also be modifications to the conveyor system within this building to be able to discharge biosolids directly into trucks.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Helle to recommend approval of Waste Water Treatment Plant Change Order #4. Carried.

The item will be on the June 17, 2024 Council Agenda.

Item No. 4 Downtown Stormwater Resiliency Study Update

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated in 2023, the City received a grant through the MPCA in the amount of \$66,930 to develop a Downtown Stormwater Resilience Plan. He stated City staff collected data on the storm sewer system and they used their labor as the in-kind contribution to this grant.

They collected data on catch basins, manholes, and inverse depths in the downtown area. Mr. Wenum worked with SEH and gave them the data the City collected and SEH created models and maps of existing systems showing where water would be inundated if flooding of the streets were happening. The models were able to show the problem areas.

SEH developed five projects that would help improve our drainage and resiliency. They vary in size. Mr. Wenum stated this gives the engineering department a plan for the future to help reduce flooding in these areas. They will be able to utilize this data when planning their street reconstruction projects in the future.

This item is for informational purposes and no action required.

Item No. 5 Administrative Report

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the second employee engagement meeting with Sicora Consulting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Open Discussion

None.

Moved by Council Member Helle, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adjourning the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brianne Wolf, City Clerk