

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Wastewater Update

February 19, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

City Council Present: Mayor Spear, Assistant Mayor Lister, Councilors Coviello, Kennedy, Novelline Clayburgh, Lown, Dwyer, Smith and Thorsen

Staff Present: City Manager Bohenko, Deputy Public Works Director Peter Rice and Water/Sewer Engineer Terry Desmarais

I. Call to Order – Mayor Spear

Mayor Spear called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Introduction

City Manager Bohenko stated that Deputy Public Works Director Peter Rice and Water/Sewer Engineer Terry Desmarais will give a brief power point presentation on the status of the Waste Water Treatment Plant issue.

III. Presentation

Water/Sewer Engineer Desmarais began by discussing the Regulatory Framework and Issues in regards to the Peirce Island and Pease WWTF NPDES Permit Status including:

Peirce Island:

- Submitted renewal application December 31, 2011
- EPA letter July 2012 indicating TN 8 mg/L monthly average
- December 18, 2012 Pilot Results Meeting with EPA and NHDES
- EPA Pilot comment letter January 30, 2013 indicating TN 8 mg/L monthly average for all flow
- No draft permit received

Pease:

- Permit expired 2005
- No draft permit received

He continued that additional items to support permit include:

- FDA/NHDES Dye Study
- Piscataqua River Hydrodynamic Model

He discussed the Collection System Sewer Separation Project Status stating that Lincoln 3A (Lincoln, Spring, Broad, Miller, Bersum and Willow are substantially complete as of 06/1/2012. Lincoln Cass Area (Cass, Brewery, Chevrolet and Albany) and Lincoln 3B (Richards, Rockland, Highland, Miller and Merrimac) and currently under construction with completion dates of June 1 and October 1, 2013 respectively. Finally, Lincoln 3C (Lincoln, Union, Wibird, Park) are currently in design with an estimated completion date of 10/01/2014.

Regarding CSO Long Term Control Plan – Post Construction Monitoring Plan (PCMP) Water/Sewer Engineer Desmarais stated they need to determine if the completed LTCP measures meet performance requirements and have to Build and Measure flow measurement and Water quality analysis.

Next, Deputy Public Works Director Rice reviewed the Design Basis for the Peirce Island WWTF stating that the pending Final Treatment Technology Recommendation includes:

- Secondary System Annual Average Flow of 6.13 MGD and Maximum Day Flow of 9.06 MGD
- Seasonal Rolling Average (April-October) Effluent Nitrogen Limit of 8 mg/L
- Total Nitrogen Limit Only Applies to Secondary Treatment System Effluent
- Proposed Facility Includes Wet Weather Secondary Bypass (Primary Effluent Limit)

He continued stating that Items impacting design decisions include:

- Continued Regulatory Uncertainty
- Recent Comments from EPA
 - Secondary Treatment Facility Sizing (flow) Inadequate
 - Permit Limit will be 8 mg/L Monthly Average
 - Need to Meet Effluent Permit Limit of Blended Flow
- All items Impact Capital and O&M Costs

He then discussed the Peirce Island WWTF Consent Decree Deadlines stating that currently we are beginning the final design with the projected completion date set for 08/31/2014. The projected date to begin construction is 03/01/2015 with compliance to be achieved by 05/01/2017.

He concluded by stating that the Wastewater Website was launched on January 30, 2013 for people to keep informed on the Wastewater Issue.

IV. Discussion

Deputy Public Works Director Rice stated that the City has not received the draft permit as of yet and discussion ensued regarding the requirements of treating the effluent to the EPA determined levels and the difference in costs depending on which standard they dictate.

Councilor Kennedy asked what it is going to look like on Peirce Island. City Manager Bohenko explained that because we don't yet know what is going to be required and are still in the process of working out which technology we will be utilizing, we aren't able to make that determination as of yet and we want to make sure that whatever we pick will work. He continued that we are still waiting for the permit from the EPA but we are required by the Consent decree to continue the process.

Discussion ensued regarding keeping the facility within the current fence line and why the Pease option was determined not to be viable due to cost, logistics and environmental issues.

V. Adjournment

Mayor Spear closed the Work Session at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Valerie A. French,
Deputy City Clerk