

CITY OF MOYIE SPRINGS MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 19th, 2015

City Council met in special session November 19th, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Moyie Springs City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Evans. Present were Councilmen, Chad Farrens, Steve Economu, Terry Johnson, Tim Narvaez, and Public Works Supervisor John Nelson.

Matt Plaisted from DEQ, Jimmy Ball, Chris Pease, and Lester Love were also present.

Mayor Evans stated that the Girod's did not attend the meeting as they had received a copy of the City's subdivision ordinance prior to the meeting and were going to talk to a surveyor before proceeding. They would bring a land preliminary, to present to the Council, if and when they were ready to subdivide their parcel at 18 Black Bear Road.

Mayor Evans reported to the Council about a visit he had with Chris Pease from Idaho Forest Group. They had discussed the City purchasing a minimum of 10 acres located behind the City Hall to use for the location of a recirculation sand filter and large soil absorption system for the City's wastewater. Mayor Evans presented a map that Chris Pease had made to show a visual of what the ten acres looked like. The ten acres would be a large portion of the mills land located behind City Hall. Chris Pease was unsure if the Mill would be willing to let go of ten acres. John Nelson presented a map that DEQ had prepared years back showing the potential of ground water contamination in correlation to the City's well. The map showed the area located behind the City Hall in a zero to three year time travel zone to the City's water source. Matt Plaisted said that a nutrient pathogen test would need to be done on the land to determine the actual water quality and nitrogen concentration. He also added that the map DEQ had used was just a model to show potential contaminants in the area. Chad Farrens asked if the nutrient pathogen test needed to be done before the land would be approved by DEQ. John Nelson questioned what the test results would have to be for the land to be an approved land site for the LSAS sewer system. Matt Plaisted said that the test was not a pass or fail test. It might show that extra chlorination of the water would be necessary. Tim Narvaez questioned the map being just for the basic study of possible contaminants. John Nelson said the report had been given to the City by DEQ. Matt Plaisted said the map was just the projection of the possible water travel either rain or groundwater and not necessarily would actually contaminate the City's water.

John Nelson suggested another land acquisition on property owned by the Idaho Transportation Department. Mayor Evans showed on the large wall map the area that John Nelson was referring to. John Nelson said that he had talked to ITD, and that there is a possibility that they would give the City the land for the City's sewer waste disposal. Mayor Evans said that the larger land available at this site would allow for Option C with the aerated lagoons with the land application for reuse. Jimmy Ball questioned if the sewer system being piped thru areas with existing private septic tanks systems, would be required to hookup to the City's sewer system as the City's ordinance requires. Terry Johnson said that he would assume not as it would require a pressured line to pump the existing waste from the current lagoon to the ITD land. Mayor Evans said the expansion of the sewer system and requirement of current permitted septic systems to be forced to hook on to the City's system would not be likely. He believed that the residents would vote

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No to the expansion. Jimmy Ball asked if the Mill's land was more feasible as it was closer to the current lagoon. He also asked about the consideration of large septic tanks for multiple homes and the possibility of using alley ways if necessary for the drain fields as a solution to the current DEQ lagoon discharge violation. Matt Plaisted said that the larger septic tank systems require larger drain fields. Mayor Evans said that if ITD would give the land to the City for free; it was probably where the City should be looking at as the suitable land for the City to put the sewer drain fields. Mayor Evans added that the option for City's current sewer users to have septic tank sewer systems installed would probably be voted No to by those residents. The option would require the property owner to put in private septic tanks at their expense, and if that later caused water contamination there would not be the City's sewer system option available for them. Jimmy Ball stated that he had not had any issues with the septic tank systems on his properties nor did Panhandle Health District. Mayor Evans said that it could cost the property owners up to \$5000.00 per home at their own expense. Jimmy Ball said that his cost for putting in a septic tank was around \$2500.00. Mayor Evans commented on that might be his expense and that he has the crew and equipment for the installation, where others might not. John Nelson added that the water line main runs thru that area and would restrict where septic tanks could be placed and he knew the some residents would not have the room on their land for septic tanks. Jimmy Ball thought that septic tanks should still be considered as a feasible option. Tim Narvaez asked the council for their consideration of John Nelson's suggestion on a cloth plate media filter system. John Nelson had found a cloth plate media filter system that other sewer systems were using to filter their effluent. John Nelson said that he had not been able to get an engineer to look at the system and that it was necessary for an engineer's approval on the system before DEQ would even consider as a viable option. Matt Plaisted said that the discharge from the City's lagoon was the problem that DEQ was requiring to be fixed. Tim Narvaez said that the discharge could still be pumped to the ITD land for disposal. Mayor Evans asked Matt Plaisted about DEQ's concerns with the algae in the sewer lagoon. John Nelson said we would still need to get rid of the solids before any discharge was allowed, and that sand filters would still filter the discharge from the lagoon before entering the cloth plate media filter system. Terry Johnson asked about the necessary storage area that would be needed. John Nelson thought probably the City would need a storage tank located there and that the storage area would not be a major concern. John Nelson commented on dosing pumps being used also. Mayor Evans stated that expense of the filters being high. John Nelson had found a cloth type filter that the cloth could be purchased in bulk and the City could make its own filter cloths. He added that this system would run off an air compressor. Mayor Evans commented on Century West Engineers being hired to review Welch Comer Engineering options for the wastewater discharge and hopefully finding another viable option. He said that the review had only given the City cost saving alternatives for each option that Welch Comer Engineering had presented. John Nelson said he thought if a pilot project was done with the cloth plate media filter system and a clean discharge was the results that DEQ would consider as an option to correct our sewer discharge. John Nelson also added that he had heard where Silverwood uses small balls on top of their lagoon to reduce the algae. Matt Plaisted confirmed the use of the balls on the Silverwood sewer lagoon and that it was thought to reduce the algae. John Nelson thought that that would be an option for the City to use the balls on the lagoon to protect the lagoon from the sun and reduce the algae. He would still want to run

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the discharge thru the cloth plate media filter system and then into storage tanks for later dispersal, with the possibility of dispersing on the ITD land. Jimmy Ball asked about the piping expense of the discharge. John Nelson thought it would take 5000 to 7000 feet of 4" pipe. Jimmy Ball asked what would be the considered path of the sewer pipe line for disposal. John Nelson thought that a probable path would be crossing over to the Mill property and going behind City Hall and then up towards N. Elk Street and down the road to the ITD property. Tim Narvaez thought this option would allow for future sewer expansion, if and when necessary, with the ITD land availability. He also added that the City should look at acquiring as much land as ITD would be willing to give for future growth. John Nelson stated that there was a draw back on the ITD property as it was not surveyed and the City would need to have it surveyed and show proof of the benefit of them giving the land for public use. The City would also have to have a reversionary clause in the land agreement that if the City no longer needed the land that ITD would get the property back. John Nelson said we should start with getting the property description and the City would have to decide on the desired acreage wanted. Terry Johnson said the City should pursue getting the ITD land. Jimmy Ball thought asking for 60 acres for future growth was a good plan. John Nelson said that ITD owns more than 60 acres but he believes that is all ITD would allow the City to have. Tim Narvaez asked what the required land acreage was for the options presented by Welch Comer Engineering were. Matt Plaisted said that Option C needed fifty plus acres and that Option D needed ten acres. Terry Johnson said the City would need to find out where the cut off would be for the land. Mayor Evans mentioned the pipe line and the gravel pit locations next to the property the City was seeking. John Nelson said the City would need to have the surveying done. Chris Pease commented on the ITD land being a good solution but the Options presented by the engineers having an extreme expense for the engineers themselves. He wondered why not focus on a treatment for the lagoon and not just focus on the discharge from it. Matt Plaisted said that the further the discharge is away from the water system the less possibility for water contamination. The nutrient pathogen test would still be needed on the ITD land to approve the ITD property by DEQ. John Nelson stated that he thought a cloth plate media filter system would require funds from \$125,000.00 to \$175,000.00. He thought adding the balls to the sewer lagoon and the filter expense would reach \$200,000.00. He said that the City is currently producing about 20,000 gallons of discharge that needed to be pumped away from the sewer lagoon and that in either the Option C or D; the City would still have the cost to add pipe lines and pump stations to get the sewer discharge to the ITD land and the purposed drain fields. Tim Narvaez projected that there would be additional expenses upwards to \$500,000.00 for the piping and the excavation. John Nelson said at \$30.00 a foot for 8" pipe the cost would be greater. Tim Narvaez stated that the City needed to look at using the current lagoon and trying to find a solution there. Mayor Evans said that an engineer would still have to sign off the cloth plate media filter system before DEQ would approve it.

Matt Plaisted said that the Facility Study Grant done by Welch Comer Engineering needed to be closed and the City has to choose an Option presented, to close the Facility Study Grant. Chris Pease commented on the dynamics changing with the new land availability. Chad Farrens said that the City might be able to use the current lagoon and just pump the discharge to drain fields on the ITD property. Mayor Evans emphasized the deadline for the time extension for the Facility Study Grant was on 12/31/15 and that DEQ needed the City to sign off on an Option.

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Mayor Evans asked if the Council could sign off on Option C and then possibly change their direction later. John Nelson asked Matt Plaisted if the Council signed off on an Option if they could change their minds later. Matt Plaisted said that the Facility Study Grant was completed on the Options presented and that the funding and grants would be based on those same Options. He did not know the details but thought if the Council wanted to go a different direction that a new Facility Study would need to be completed for DEQ's approval of an alternative option. John Nelson said that with getting the ITD land; the City could feasibility do either the lagoons with land application, Option C or the sand filter and large soil absorption, Option D. Steve Economu confirmed that the ITD land availability gave the City the flexibility of below or above ground for the discharge disposal. Matt Plaisted said that the City could apply for more grant monies for a new facility study. Tim Narvaez asked Matt Plaisted if DEQ would allow the City to pursue this new direction of a cloth plate media filter system for the discharge treatment or if they would only look at new disposal sites. Mayor Evans stated that the City would be starting the whole process over. He asked Matt Plaisted if it would not be better to add to the current facility study. Matt Plaisted said that the City needed to sign off on the current Facility Study Grant. Tim Narvaez asked if DEQ would allow another deadline extension. Matt Plaisted said that he would push for DEQ to give an extension to the City, but was unsure of their consideration to allow the extension. Tim Narvaez stated the Council is trying to be diligent in finding the right solution for the City. He also thought an option for the City to consider is a City wide fee for the City's maintenance, upgrades, and expansions to benefit the City and its continued growth. Jimmy Ball said he appreciated the Council's effort in not seeking a bandage for the sewer solution, and looking towards the future and further expansion. Mayor Evans said the City was limited for any expansion at this time, and needed the residents vote approval or a judge ruling on the necessary wastewater Option to correct the discharge outflow. Jimmy Ball said that it should involve the city residents in the area affected and should not force the solution on the entire City. He also said he realized the City would need growth to pay for the City's ability for expansion. Mayor Evans said that the rate increases to the eventual \$45.00 monthly sewer charges set in place before an Option was chosen was to prepare the City for the financial burden and for possible grant assistance. Jimmy Ball asked if the City would be relying on borrowed money or grant monies. Mayor Evans said that when the City voted on the Option it would be on a set plan and that the Council would not be able to change it. John Nelson thought that the Council needed to file for the facility study grant deadline extension, and proceed looking at all options in depth, before committing to a plan. Chad Farrens questioned the sewer rate increase implement prior to a plan of action being determined. John Nelson said the sooner the rate increase had begun the more City funds were available for the inevitable expenses to correct the sewer discharge required by DEQ. Chad Farrens thought the Options presented by Welch Comer Engineering would eventually create an even higher sewer rate increase of possibly \$60.00 monthly and doesn't think the City should proceed with their options. Tim Narvaez expressed his disappointment in the Facility Study done by the engineers not to have come up with other ideas retrofitting in to the City's existing lagoon system. John Nelson commented on the engineers following normal routes previously used on working systems and their reluctance to think outside of the box to other possible solutions. He thought the engineers should have thought thru the existing system and found a solution instead of planning for a total new replacement system to fix the problem area. Jimmy Ball added that they seem to have

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complicated the project. John Nelson said that the engineers liked to use a plan that had been previously successful and approved by DEQ. Matt Plaisted said the Council should talk to Welch Comer Engineers and discuss their concerns on these issues. Mayor Evans gave Chris Pease a copy of the Century West Engineering review of the Welch Comer Engineering Facility Study and their cost saving recommendation on the Options presented by Welch Comer Engineering. John Nelson said that he would contact ITD regarding the ITD land requisition. Chad Farrens said that he believed that the Council should proceed with the letter of request for the deadline extension on the Facility Study Grant. Mayor Evans said that the Council needed to close the Facility Study Grant and that they should see if Steve Cordes would be able to attend a meeting to give clarification on the Facility Study and the consequences if the Council signed off on one of the Options they had presented and the City did not proceed with. Steve Economu agreed with that suggestion. Mayor Evans said the Council would need have a special meeting and invite Welch Comer Engineering to participate in the discussions. John Nelson asked if the pilot test on the cloth plate media filter system would be beneficial to show DEQ the sewer discharge was treatable and that it could be the direction the City should pursue. Mayor Evans thought that DEQ would need to see the results of test before they would even consider and then would still need an engineer's approval for DEQ to accept as an alternative plan. John Nelson that he would check to see what it would involve for a pilot test of the cloth plate media filter system at the lagoon site. Mayor Evans said the City needed to get away from any ideas of the option of septic tank systems to replace the existing sewer lagoon system. He believes that securing the land from ITD as a long term solution for the City and that the land available would allow for Option C or Option D from the Facility Study. Mayor Evans asked Matt Plaisted if the pilot test show Class A water as the discharge, would DEQ consider it to be a viable option or does he think that DEQ would still want to limit the City to the Facility Study presented Options. Matt Plaisted said that choosing one of the land Options in the Facility Study and closing the current Facility Study Grant would be the next necessary step. He said that DEQ wanted to have the Facility Study Grant closed. John Nelson questioned if DEQ had rules governing how to get the wastewater to Class A water. Matt Plaisted replied that they have basic and vague standards of using aeration and filters to meet the discharge requirements. Steve Economu questioned if John Nelson would have to have additional operator certification for his position if the City proceeded with one of the Options presented. Mayor Evans thought it might require John to bump his license up with one or two classes. John Nelson thought he would need to take a filtered water class and have a land application license. Matt Plaisted said it might require John Nelson to be a Class IV operator. Chad Farrens suggested the possibility of Chris Pease working with John Nelson to produce a mapped area showing the area that the City would like to acquire from ITD to use to have it surveyed. John Nelson said that we would get the necessary information and an area map and would plan to meet with ITD in Coeur d'Alene.

Mayor Evans asked if there was a motion from the Council. A motion was made by Terry Johnson and seconded by Chad Farrens to send a letter to DEQ requesting an extension on the Facility Study Grant. Motion carried. Terry Johnson thought the Council needed to invite Welch Comer Engineering to the next meeting.

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A motion was made by Chad Farrens and seconded by Terry Johnson to send a letter of intent to increase the Wastewater Facility Planning Grant by \$2,500.00 for further study for 50 % of the anticipated costs. Motion carried.

Mayor Evans asked for discussion on beginning phase two of the sewer rate increase. The discussion concluded that the second phase of the increase to the sewer rate should begin May of 2016. A motion was made by Terry Johnson and seconded by Chad Farrens to begin the second phase of the sewer rate increase on May 2016 billing statement. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Steve Economu and seconded by Terry Johnson to adjourn. Motion carried.

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Attest: City Clerk