

Town of Ashland City  
Special Called Council Meeting  
Board of Mayor and Council  
January 7, 2014

The Board of Mayor and Council met in a Special Called Council Meeting on January 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of discussing/acting on the sewer pumps at the Wastewater Plant in the Municipal Building.

Present and presiding: Mayor Rick Johnson.

Council present: Vice-Mayor Steve Allen, Alwilda Binkley, Lisa Walker, Jimmy Gill, Roger Jackson, and Chris LaCrosse.

Others present: Chuck Walker Rick Mayo, Tim Verner, Marc Coulon, Anita Justice, Raymond Barnes, Michael Armstrong, Tim Adkins, Tony Young, Melissa Womack, Dwayne Noe, Billy Harris, Jennifer Noe, Mary Glasgow and Phyllis Schaeffer.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and said Council, if you don't know one of the remaining 2 pumps went down. We are meeting for the sole purpose for action on the pumps at the wastewater plant.

Mayor Johnson advised the Council that he had to go ahead and tell Billy to get an emergency pump and he did. When Mayor spoke with Rick Greer from Southern Electric he said he could not in good conscious, recommend repairing the screw pump again. Mr. Greer did not recommend getting the pump repaired. We are going to have to replace the screw pump system. Rick Mayo and Tim Verner are here from Fisher & Arnold to talk to us. The good news is that we can do this work cheaper than we thought. The bad news is, is that we are going to have to pay for it. They feel we can do it cheaper than what we were asking for in the grant; as you know we did not get the grant. Phyllis can help explain the report but there will be money available for the work. These funds will be available without having to borrow any money. Mayor said at this point he would ask Tim to come up and explain the work to Council. Mr. Tim Verner approached the Council. Mr. Verner handed out a copy of the schematic plans showing where they took out the rotary pumps and replaced those with 3 submersible pumps. This will show their findings and recommendations. A little over a year ago Council approved they do a schematic plan on the screw pumps for the grant. This was used in the preparation of the grant. At that time there were 3 screw pumps being used one being out of service and two operating. Their plan takes out the screw pumps and replaces them with submersible pumps. They will be flood proof as they operate under water. There were 2 alternatives with 2 different pump set ups. The cheapest alternative was to replace the influent lift station with the submersible pumps. Mr. Verner referred to page 5 of the report he handed out saying the preliminary opinion and cost was based on the city placing it out to bid having a contractor and demolition of the existing lift station, replace the pumps with submersible pumps, do electrical work, replace odor control, and replace the existing lift station. This estimate was anticipated to be a little more than \$500,000. The city is contemplating using the city's own work force which would save money. It is certainly within the town's skill set. Several things on that cost estimate can result in savings. Not having a contractor mobilizing on site will save about \$10,000. The emergency pump would replace the \$25,000 in the original estimate. \$50,000 estimated for the contractor can be eliminated. The odor control system has been addressed and will not be necessary resulting in a savings of \$20,000. There are other savings of a few thousand dollars by the city bidding equipment and installing it ourselves. This plan cannot be used for construction. Very generally I would like to go over the

schematic plan. You would need to remove and replace the screw pumps. Remove and replace the top slab of the lift station. Install 3 pump supports (base L's) and install a guide rails system. Install an individual discharge pipe which is shown on an angle at the top of the headworks. There is the electrical component, to include new starters and the variable controls for the pumps to control the speed of the pumps. In a nutshell we're at a point now where we have a schematic plan. This is a plan used successfully by other municipalities. Mr. Verner recommends the town begin construction soon on the pump system. He would be glad to answer any detailed questions Council may have. Mr. LaCrosse said with this being the cheapest route is it best or are we sacrificing the lifespan for dollars up front. Would this plan be your recommendation? Is it in our best interest? Mr. Verner replied if you were building a new plant he would recommend to go with the submersible pumps just for the ease of service; they have not recommended screw pumps in 20 years. When they fail they catastrophically fail. Mr. LaCrosse asked what was the life span of this facility; I presume there is no component of this plan that can't be replaced. Can we replace or repair some of this in the future? This is a complete gut job. 20-30 years in the future will we be able to repair/replace the parts? Mr. Verner replied no pumps are trouble free you do have to maintain them; he doesn't think you would typically need to replace/repair a properly installed pump for 5-10 years. There are parts that are designed to wear and to maintain the worn parts. There are companies that can come in and factory replace/maintains these pumps. These parts are designed to wear. Periodically you will need to maintain and clean these parts. The odor control system was discussed with the life of the concrete and metal parts and the damage hydrogen sulfide does to them. Anything under water such as the pumps will not be affected by the hydrogen sulfide. Mr. LaCrosse asked what is the cost to service one of these pumps. Can this be done by the skillset of our workforce? Mr. Verner stated Memphis has a lot of submersible pumps in their sewer system. Many have provided great service and are maintained by their staff. But they went with a non-factory trained repair shop and when major repairs were needed, they couldn't keep the pumps running. Mr. LaCrosse asked what the cost would be to have a pump repaired. Mr. Verner said the seal packs? Mr. LaCrosse replied yes. Mr. Verner said about \$5,000.

Mr. LaCrosse said the Council is interested in how to spec the pumps out. Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Verner if we would be using 2 or 3 pumps. Mr. Verner said that when they came and did preliminary work, you had a pump system of three pumps and one was down. Now another pump has failed and you are down to one. A lift station should always have redundancy so that any two pumps can keep up with your peak period. You will always have that third to use if anything goes wrong with one of them. Mr. Jackson said if we have three pumps and use only two he thought maybe you could set a place and when you need the third one you could slide it in there. Mr. Verner said that you don't want to totally wear out a pump to failure and then be down to two. Billy would be able to use one pump as lead for 8 hours of run time and then change to the next pump to be lead for 8 hours and so on and so forth. You are rotating pumps on and off. Billy said that is how our current system is set up. Mr. Jackson said at the end of 5 years do you take the pump out to replace the turbines? Or wait until one fails. Mr. Verner said the city of Memphis now has a factory trained repair person. They go around yearly and do preventive cleaning and checking so you are not waiting on that catastrophic failure; you can watch a pump as it begins to slow down sending from point A to B that tells you that you are starting to get wear on the impellers. Mr. Verner explained that with a pump failure in the lift station, any two pumps can keep up with the peak flows. You always have two in reserve. He would go back and put in three pumps. Mr. Jackson asked if the pump would go off site for repair. Mr. Verner said to rewind a pump it would go off site, a new seal pack can be done on site. These are not small pumps but they are not humongous pumps. Mr. Verner said install all 3 pumps and rotate the pumps for equal wear. Billy Harris said the set up was three to rotate the pumps for equal wear. Mr. Jackson asked if you wait for one to fail before pulling it out of service. Mr. Verner said you do preventative repairs and maintenance as needed. Mr. Verner went on to explain how the pumps will be designed to show and alert when something is wrong. It was

discussed who would be able to do this. Mr. Verner said some of it can be done locally. Mr. Noe said the general maintenance staff can do. Mr. LaCrosse asked if the grating system would be taken out. Mr. Harris said they would still need that. Mr. LaCrosse said on this design you could pull one out without disturbing the others? Mr. Verner replied yes each have their own guide rails he proposes using a hoist and trolley system to remove the pump for service. Ms. Binkley asked if they would have capability to handle growth. Mr. Verner replied he got with Billy and got his highest flow and they designed for that. Mr. LaCrosse asked how should we proceed? Mr. Verner said for warranty purposes he would have the pumps installed by a representative of the company. The electrical should be done by a licensed electrician. Mr. Verner said this will cost considerably less than the \$511,000 quote estimate. Mayor's estimate is about \$300,000. Mayor said for the grant \$14,000 had already been approved. Mr. Verner said it was \$14,325 for the initial survey and schematic plans. To get the bid specs to document stage it would be an additional \$24,375. An additional \$17,500 can be budgeted if the town needs assistance during the construction/administration phase. This would be a total additional cost of \$41,875. He would request that the city pay the \$500 for the review fee. Mayor said on page 5 the engineer had set aside for a by-pass pump we need to buy this tonight. The cost is \$39,125 to buy it or \$4,900 a month to rent we need to pass an ordinance tonight for this expenditure. Mayor said that it will be middle of the year to begin construction and then time to put the pumps in. We will have already paid enough in rent to pay for it. The pump needs to be bought. Ms. Noe said she and Phyllis just drew an ordinance up so she presented it to Council. Mayor said we can do the lion's share of this work but thinks we should leave a hefty contingency in case we need the engineers to come in during construction. We will pay for the engineer for only the extra work they provide. But we can do considerably less than this \$500,000 number. Mr. Noe said they could do all the demolition work, piping and concrete work. He went on to say the pump manufacturers will need to set the pumps. We will need someone to do the electrical work.

Ms. Noe advised that since this is an emergency you do not have to place it out to bid. This ordinance is to purchase an emergency pump not to exceed \$45,000.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to approve Ordinance #417 – emergency purchase of the pump. Mr. Harris said once it is approved he will have them bring out the new pump. Mr. Jackson asked what size the pump was. Mr. Harris replied 6 inch. Mr. Noe said when they start working on the I and I they will have to have a pump. It will be used.

Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, Gill-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mr. LaCrosse asked what are the hard numbers to get this spec'd out. Mr. Verner replied \$14,325 already approved on the schematic drawing; \$24,375 for the drawing and document phase and \$17,500 if needed for assistance during construction. Mr. LaCrosse asked if they got the TDEC approval for these plans. Mr. Verner said that was correct and he is asking the town to pay the \$500 review fee. Mr. LaCrosse said he thinks Fisher & Arnold should be the lead on this project. Mayor said we need a motion to give Tim the go ahead to do the plans and have TDEC review. Mr. Gill asked if Fisher and Arnold would throw in the \$500 review fee. Mr. Verner said yes, they would throw the fee in their cost. Mr. Gill thanked Mr. Verner for paying for the review fee.

Mr. LaCrosse said didn't we have a document with the fee table? Could we call and use that if needed? Mr. Verner replied well,yes.

Mayor said he was looking for a motion to have Fisher and Arnold proceed with the design plans.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Gill, to let Fisher & Arnold proceed with the design plans to include the review fee. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor said he needed a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Gill to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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Rick Johnson, Mayor

Phyllis Schaeffer, City Recorder