

**City of Lafayette**  
**City Council Special Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 21, 2002**  
**6:30 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lotis Hanks at 6:34 p.m.
- 2. FLAG SALUTE:** Mayor Lotis Hanks led the flag salute.
- 3. ROLL CALL:** Richard Van Orman, City Administrator, called the roll.  
*Present:* Mayor Lotis Hanks, Ron Ross, Joe Giesbers, Marianne Mitchell, Richard Jewell, Bob Cullen (arrived late), Marianne Mitchell (arrived late), and Gary Filpi.  
*Absent:* None.  
*City Staff Present:* Richard Van Orman-Interim City Administrator, Trena Cranfill- Assistant to the City Administrator.  
*Others Present:* Tony Bell, Mike Hanks, Mike Henry-HBH Engineering, and Rob Henry- HBH Engineering.
- 4. PRESENTATION FROM DAVE GALATI RE: CITY ADMINISTRATOR CANDIDATES:**  
Richard Van Orman said that Dave Galati won't be here tonight, because when Council was polled last week, the majority of Council wanted to pursue Diane Rinks for the position of City Administrator. Diane will be coming to City Hall at 10:30 tomorrow morning to meet with the staff. Dave Galati will be doing reference checks this week and will hopefully have a report for the Council at the meeting on Thursday.  
Marianne Mitchell arrived at 6:35 p.m.  
Ron Ross said that he brought a resume that was turned in to him, and Council is welcome to a copy of it, but he doesn't feel that she has the qualifications for the position. Staff will provide the Council with a copy of the resume that Ron Ross submitted.  
Bob Cullen arrived at 6:38 p.m.  
Bob Cullen asked if the Council wants to consider people outside the original pool of applicants.  
Ron Ross said that this issue needs to be put to rest soon, and he suggested interviewing some of the candidates again. Discussion ensued.  
Mayor Lotis Hanks said that the Council can continue this discussion at the end of the meeting.
- 5. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION FOR UTILITY WORKER POSITION:**  
Richard Van Orman said that the normal process for hiring a utility worker is for the City Administrator to proceed with the hiring following the process of advertising and interviews. Since the position of City Administrator is vacant, it falls upon the council to direct the final hiring. The City received 83 applications for the position. From those, nine applicants were chosen for an interview. The Interim City Administrator, Public Works Superintendent and Assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator interviewed the candidates. Based upon the candidate being fully experienced in all phases of the work required for a utility worker as well as being a trained firefighter needed to supplement the fire response of the community, it is their recommendation that Matthew Johnson be hired for the position. Richard Van Orman said that he was chosen unanimously by all three interviewers.  
Bob Cullen said that he feels that this is a decision that the new City Administrator should make. Bob Cullen said that he doesn't feel comfortable hiring someone right now. Gary Filpi asked how much the public works department needs to fill the position. Richard Van Orman said that Randy Hubbard and Jim Anderson are responsible for the day to day activities of the department right now and they are not able to take time off until the position is filled. There are projects that are not getting done because they don't have the manpower to do it. There is also a second utility worker position that is vacant, and the new City Administrator can make a decision about that position. Gary Filpi said that he disagrees with Bob Cullen because it was a unanimous decision to hire Matt Johnson. Bob Cullen said that he would like at least two weeks to find out a little more about Matt Johnson. Richard Jewell said that he would like to see more than one application. Joe Giesbers said that he is in favor of hiring Matt Johnson.  
Gary Filpi made a motion to direct the Interim City Administrator to hire Matthew Johnson as a utility worker. Joe Giesbers seconded the motion. Discussion- Gary Filpi said that he doesn't want to make the current staff work overtime to cover for the vacant position and not allow them to take any time off. There was discussion about hiring a temporary person until a new City Administrator is hired. Marianne Mitchell asked if a background (criminal) check has been done on him, and Richard Van Orman said that it hasn't been done since it is not a requirement of the hiring process. Ron Ross asked how many people Randy Hubbard has at his disposal today, and Trena Cranfill said that he has Jim Anderson and on occasion John Wright, but John's first priority is the sewer plant. Discussion ensued. Richard Van Orman said that the Council is not choosing from the 83 candidates, the Council is giving a vote of confidence to the Public Works Superintendent and the Interim City

Administrator. If the Council would like to do the interviews, then that is another process. Randy Hubbard will be the one that is going to have to work with this person.

There was no more discussion, the Council was polled, and the motion was passed with Ron Ross, Gary Filpi, Joe Giesbers, and Lotis Hanks voting aye, and Richard Jewell, Bob Cullen, and Marianne Mitchell voting nay.

Bob Cullen said that he wanted to note that his vote was not a vote against Matthew Johnson, but a question of the timing and procedure.

**6. WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS WWTP OPTIONS- MIKE HENRY, PRE-DESIGN ENGINEER:**

Mike Henry said that he would like to get some input from the Council on the different treatment options that are available, and also discuss the issue of effluent reuse. Mike Henry said that when he met with Tim McFetridge, he encouraged the City to keep their options open by keeping the discharge permit into the river. The City will have to explore the idea of effluent reuse soon. Bob Cullen said that it would be irresponsible for the City to get out of the river. There was discussion about a discharge permit into the river vs. effluent reuse.

Rob Henry explained the oxidation ditch treatment process.

Mike Henry said that dealing with the I&I problem will help extend the life of the plant.

Richard Van Orman asked about the necessity of lifting the dikes on the lagoons to raise them above the flood plain. Mike Henry said that the lagoons will have to be raised above the flood plain.

Bob Cullen asked what the highest recurring cost will be for the oxidation ditch treatment process besides the electricity, and Rob Henry said that the UV bulbs are expensive and they have to be replaced regularly (every 10 mos.-1.5 years). There are other options for the disinfection process (ie. chlorination/dechlorination). There was some discussion about Ozone (gas generated by a light bulb) as a possible disinfection tool. UV works better in smaller spaces.

Rob Henry said that the SBR (Sequencing Batch Reactor) process is the cheapest of all the treatment options.

Rob Henry explained the SBR process.

Tony Bell asked about using the existing plant for a few more years and Ron Ross said that when the City met with DEQ, his impression was that DEQ doesn't want the City to go that route. Discussion ensued.

Mike Henry said that Tim McFetridge (DEQ) is not going to accept a 5 or 10 year solution.

Rob Henry explained the extended air process.

The equipment costs would be about the same for the extended air process as the sequencing batch reactor process. However, the extended air process would require about twice as much concrete (expensive).

There was one other process, a membrane plant, but there are no sewer treatment plants that use this process in the United States. The Council thanked Mike and Rob Henry for the ideas and processes that were presented tonight.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

Bob Cullen asked the Council if they want to look beyond the pool of candidates that were interviewed. Marianne Mitchell said that there are other candidates to look at. Ron Ross asked if the Council is going to reduce the original requirements for the position. Discussion ensued.

The Consensus of Council is to ask Diane Rinks to come for a second interview on Thursday, October 24, 2002.

**7. ADJOURN:**

Ron Ross made a motion to adjourn. Gary Filpi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Minutes approved on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2002.**

**APPROVED:**

**ATTESTED:**

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Mayor Lotis Hanks

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Richard Van Orman, Interim City Administrator