

City of Lafayette
City Council Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2004
6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Lotis Hanks called the meeting to order at City Hall at 6:32 p.m.

2. **FLAG SALUTE:** Mayor Lotis Hanks led the flag salute.

3. **ROLL CALL:** Diane Rinks, City Administrator, called the roll.

Present: Edwina Meitzen, Bob Cullen, Mayor Lotis Hanks, and Ron Ross.

Absent: Michael Roberts – excused.

City Staff Present: Diane Rinks - City Administrator, Roy Loftis – Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

Others: Mike Henry and Rob Henry from HBH Consulting Engineers, Steve Malone and Art Bixman.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1) **Council Work Session Regarding Sewer Project Options:**

Mike and Rob Henry of HBH Consulting Engineers were present to discuss the sewer project. The council reviewed the items listed in their August 26, 2004 letter one by one to come to a consensus on what, if any, design changes should be made to the project before it is re-bid. The first item discussed was the projected savings that we could see from bidding the project at a more favorable time. Mike Henry felt that the project definitely needs to be bid before ODOT goes out to bid for their bridge projects, which is projected to happen in March. Clean Water Services is also expecting to go out for bid in early spring on a large project. Diane Rinks stated that we cannot even consider going out to bid until all of our permits are in place and the sludge disposal site is signed, sealed and delivered or the uncertainty surrounding those issues will result in higher bids. It was the consensus that we could expect \$250,000 to \$300,000 savings from bidding it at the proper time.

Mike Henry also informed the council that Paul Kennedy, the DEQ person in charge of the sludge disposal sites would like an opportunity to meet with the council and the public to explain the process and hopefully alleviate any concerns the public may have relating to the use of Mr. Koch's property. This meeting was tentatively set for October 13, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The second item discussed was the expected cost savings from having a disposal site lined up. It was the consensus that we could expect \$200,000 to \$250,000 savings.

The third item discussed was the recommendation to remove the diffusers from the equalization basin in the plans. Diane Rinks informed the council that she had discussed this with Tim McFetridge at DEQ and it was agreed that this was not a necessary component and removing it could possibly save us approximately \$50,000.

It was also agreed that an additional savings of \$30,000 would result from the corrections made to the pipeline bidding documentation.

Diane Rinks informed the council that if those savings did materialize, we would be looking at around a \$5.25M project, which would leave us with about a \$300,000 contingency fund going into the project. She felt this would be the minimum amount she would like to see for a contingency on a project of this magnitude. There was also a discussion on whether the fencing and retaining wall should remain included as is, be bid as alternates, or removed. It was agreed that they would be left for now and converted to line items in the bid in case they needed to be removed or modified later.

The discussion then turned to whether these projected savings provided enough of a comfort level to re-bid the project as is. Roy Loftis reviewed some data that Boots had compiled detailing the cracking and other concerns with the existing digester (donut). It was the consensus of the council that they did not want to try and reuse the existing donut, nor did they want to see the footprint of the plant decreased. Although no one was extremely comfortable with our projected numbers, it was the consensus of the council and staff that our only option seemed to be to bid the project as is and keep our fingers crossed.

Diane Rinks also talked briefly concerning applying for a DEQ loan instead of borrowing the already committed \$500,000 from OECDD because of the lower interest rates and more cost effective terms of that loan. She indicated to the council that in order to do this, the council would have to authorize it by a new resolution. Ron Ross indicated the he didn't think it would hurt to go with a higher figure to give us some cushion. This will all have to be discussed by the council at a later date.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Ron Ross made a motion to adjourn. Edwina Meitzen seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55p.m.

Minutes Approved on this 14th day of October, 2004.

APPROVED:

Mayor Lotis Hanks

ATTESTED:

Diane Rinks, City Administrator