

Osakis City Council – Special Workshop Meeting
January 8, 2020
5:00 PM

Present: Keith Emerson, Jerry Olson, Randy Anderson, Justin Dahlheimer, Laura Backes (arrived at 5:30 p.m.)

Absent: None

Others Present: Angela Jacobson, Greg Gottwald, Eric Mester, Reenie Goodwin, Chad Gulbranson, Rodger Larson

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Emerson at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Dahlheimer, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda as presented: All Ayes Absent: Backes

Project #233: Watershed

Crooked Lake is in the process of being worked on. The benefiting properties are being assessed for those costs.

Council wants to make sure we don't fall into that area also.

Mayor Emerson and Jacobson discussed options to be looked at for pond assessment and abandonment.

Council feels that the group pushing for abandonment needs to get involved in the process. The council is here to support the fairness of the process but to not be the sole party perusing the process.

Project #60: Ordinance for Snow Removal

Gulbranson discussed the possibility of on street parking to be allowed until the 1st plowable snow and then no street parking after that.

The residents must notify the police if on street parking is needed. The residents must notify the city – not the city notifying them if they have an issue getting their vehicles off the street.

The petition that was presented to the council had 132 names but only 68 were Osakis city residents.

Project #444: MPCA

The city holding ponds are not designed to meet the limit. They are suggesting without using new alternatives. The letter from the MPCA doesn't say that we have to build a plant but the last letter says that we need to agree to the limit of 121 ppm and then they will meet with us.

The council agrees that it is not right to request an agreement before having a discussion.

Ponds do not meet the 121 ppm in normal cases but our limit was based off of Clifford Lake rather than Faille Lake.

Faille Lake is in the process of being delisted so it can't be used based on that either.

Council would like Ingebretson, Galzeka and Franson to get involved with us.

Council discussed the non-point source trade with the Kral farm. The Karl's are willing and all that is needed is their approval and MPCA approval.

MPCA needs to go back and retest to prove that 121 ppm would not be needed to be able to keep clean.

Adding more phosphorous mass will not worsen without degrading and changing classification of that based on our change and amount of phosphorous.

Anti-digitation pond system would have to demonstrate that it would not change the classification by adding.

Project #197 – Water Pilot Study

Eric Mester from Nero Engineering was in attendance.

Mester discussed the following with the council:

- The design of the plant.
- Iron and magnesium prior to the softener.
- Did not include ammonia with chlorine.
- Over 20# of chlorine is needed to maximize the chlorine ratio of 9 to 1.
- The softener was clogged with iron and magnesium.
- More salt must be added to the brine which costs more for the city.
- Have had to shorten the cycle of the brine for the softeners so it doesn't affect ammonia in the water. Some ammonia does get through.
- Ammonia constricting level was going up.
- The size of the filter is not correctly designed.
- Aerated filter is also not the proper size.
- Designed for 400 gallons per minutes and is operating at 200 gallons per minute.

Mester informed the council that the lead and copper levels have increased since putting the plant in place. Up to 20 times testing per year was done and is now back to normal testing.

Mester discussed biologic water treatment:

- This type of treatment requires high oxygen levels.
- Pressure or gravity filter – very infrequent backwashing is needed.
- Magnesium is removed in the filter and not the softener.
- Iron removal – low oxygen level to be able to remove more iron. A pressure filter is used to remove the iron.
- No chemical is needed with this process. Washing the iron filter once a week is all that is needed.
- Longer media life.
- The removal of the iron is effective.
- Ammonia testing was for the removal and takes longer than 4 weeks. And another 4 weeks to get the process to work because of biologic activity. This needs time to work properly.
- When a system is in place - 2 to less than .05.

The pilot study costs are as follows:

- Filter cost \$5,300
- Lab & field analysis \$6,275
- Nero Engineering \$25,000
- Total costs to date is \$36,575.00
- The total of the pilot study cost was from \$48,000 to \$50,000.

The Pilot recommendation is to convert the current filter to a biological filter:

- Replace underdrain nozzles
- Replace air-wash grid
- Add air process piping
- Replace media
- Add a 7' diameter pressure filter for iron removal
- Replace ion exchange resins
- Incorporate VFD's on well #3
- Convert detention tank to backwash supply storage

The Improvement Costs are as follows:

- Gravity filter improvements \$300,000 to \$350,000
- Pressure filter improvements \$350,000 to \$400,000
- Total project costs \$700,000 to \$750,000
- Construction costs \$600,000 to \$650,000
- Water tower improvements \$450,000

Council discussed funding:

- Funding with Rural Development – small cities development grant
- Health concerns for funding
- Higher design flow & ammonia potential
- PFA bonding

Council discussed a draft report will be submitted to the Department of Health. Send the pilot study to MN Department of Health and is ok to move ahead with the design.

A preliminary engineering report will be needed to submit to MN Rural Development:

- Pilot study has recommendations
- Reorganize information into RD format to be able to receive funding.

Jacobson said that we could receive up to 45% grant if we qualify and 75% RD funding if health risk is shown.

The benefits of long term would be the removal of phosphorus in wastewater. The costs for wastewater chemicals would be lower because the water plant also effects the wastewater.

Gottwald stated – Industrial user agreements should be in place based on numbers. Charge industrial rates for high users in the city and the cost of the discharge.

Send in a report to MN Department of Health and work on RD funding application. Then a resolution for the council to approve to move forward with the project will be needed.

Project #24: Liquor Store

Reenie Goodwin was in attendance and informed the council of the following:

- Liquor Store made a profit this year.
- It was a good year – buying at the correct time and did inventory in the summer.
- Floors at the Liquor Store are becoming an issue and some areas need replacement.
- Had 2 pool leagues.
- Offered \$2 beer during Happy Hour.

Project #309: City Hall

Jacobson informed the council that WSN is working on a design layout.

Project #196: Fee Schedule

The Fee Schedule was reviewed:

- Each \$250 – request for road vacation, amend city and zoning ordinance, and petition. The fee is for time spent and for those requests that are serious in nature. They will put in a formal request to change an ordinance.

Council will approve the fee schedule at the January council meeting.

Project #472: MCPP Program

MCPP program will be on the council agenda to approve to participate in 2020. We participated in 2019.

Project #76: Police

Gulbranson informed the council about the grievance file with Calvin Uhl.

Gulbranson said that Uhl was told before the schedule to switch one vacation day for the day that was training. This training was not mandatory. Uhl did not want to switch for a vacation day. Uhl took the 26th off with no vacation used. Uhl submitted payroll but was not paid for that day.

Scheduled time was not designated – some training is optional.

Council suggests to contact the union and see when they can meet.

Gulbranson discussed the Resource Officer at the school:

- The hours will be filled by the 3 full time officers.
- Come in 1 shift a week early.
- Time will be tracked and a schedule made.
- Part-time officers will come in early on their night shift to cover shifts that need more hours.
- Shift to cover the extra hours will not be scheduled for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.
- The purpose of the officer is to talk and be available for students. Part of the grant is for mental health.

Project #335: Comp Plan

The proposal for the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed:

- Approves consultant to attend meetings.
- Drone footage for website and ads.

The grant request is for 50% and the city would match through West Central Initiative and Sourcewell.

Council discussed Legacy Funds for Central Park improvements after the Comp Plan ideas have been discussed.

Project #79: Audit

Jacobson informed the council that the city audit will be in January. Cost will be less than last year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor – Keith E. Emerson

City Clerk/Treasurer – Angela A. Jacobson