

MINUTES OF A WORK SESSION OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN COMMISSION

DATE:

Thursday, January 18, 2018

TIME:

5:30 p.m.

PLACE:

San Juan Memorial Library
Multipurpose Meeting Room
1010 S. Standard
San Juan, Texas 78589

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mario Garza, Mayor
Jesus Ramirez, Mayor Pro-Tempore
Ernesto Guajardo, Commissioner
Pete Garcia, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Raudel Maldonado, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Benjamin Arjona, City Manager
Diana Cavazos, City Secretary
David Salinas, Director of Utilities

GUESTS:

Orlando Cruz, Mark Ramirez and Marcos Cruz with Cruz-Hogan Engineers
Frank San Martin
Hollis Rutledge

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Mario Garza called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Mayor Mario Garza led the Invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mario Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALL THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

- a. Project Information Form (PIF) Discussion for the Proposed Rehabilitation of the City of San Juan Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Texas Water Development Board for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2019 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan (FY19 CWSRF IUP).

DISCUSSION: Benjamin Arjona, City Manager presented the item.

Orlando Cruz principal engineer with Cruz-Hogan Engineers gave history of the wastewater treatment plant. He mentioned that the current plant was completed and put into operation in the year 2000 and the plant discharges four million gallons per day. During the presentation, Mr. Cruz stated the following; a wastewater treatment plant was classified as an activated sludge, oxidation ditch method of wastewater treatment. The method utilizes elliptical channels with mechanical equipment which inject oxygen into the wastewater. The oxygen allows for the growth of bacterium that digests the waste and removes BOD, solids, nitrogen and ammonia from the wastewater. Wastewater is then sent to the Clarifiers, sludge settles and clarified water flows over the weirs to the chlorination de-chlorination chambers for disinfection. The fully treated wastewater discharges into the adjacent drainage ditch and the sludge that has settled at the bottom of the clarifiers and the collected scum then flow to a pump station where the sludge is either sent back to the plant headworks to reseed with bacteria/organism or digested, mixed with a coagulated and sent to the sludge beds for drying. Dried sludge is then pit into containers and hauled by a contracted company to a landfill or to be land applied.

David Salinas, Director of Utilities commented that other water plants are doing away with chlorine gas and using ultraviolet disinfection.

Mr. Cruz commented that a preliminary evaluation of the City's wastewater plant was performed to assist the City in accessing the current conditions and needs of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and to assist the City in making plans for any necessary improvements. He noted that in the plant evaluation summary

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they found many original plant components had been abandoned and at a point where they needed to be replaced. Many plant components have not been properly maintained over the years and need to be either rehabilitated, repaired or replaced. Some plant components simply have out lived their normal useful life and need to also be replaced. He stated that;

- Various plant components and equipment consume large amounts of electrical power.
- Newer and more energy efficient equipment should be considered.
- Plant controls for plant efficient operations are limited or currently non-existent.
- Installation of a supervisory controls and data acquisition (SCADA) system should be considered.

Mr. Cruz also commented that the concrete walls and roof of the lift station are deteriorating due to high hydrogen sulfide gas concentrations. Furthermore, he noted that TECQ conducted an evaluation and issued a letter for notice of violation. Some of the violations at the wastewater system included; seven of the violations were for compliance issues at the wastewater treatment plant. Four of the violations were for compliance issues at three lift stations. Some of the violations at the wastewater treatment plants were failure to maintain mechanical bar screen because the screen was not operational. Failure to operate and maintain grit chamber and failure to operate and maintain grit chamber. He stated that the estimated cost for the improvements required were to resolve TCEQ violations as follows:

- Replacement of Mechanical Screen \$345,000.00
- Replacement of Grit Removal Chamber \$ 340,000.00
- Replacement of Grit Washer/Dewatering \$115,000.00
- Replacement Sludge Thickener Equip/Pumps \$403,000.00
- Replace Sludge Digester Pumps Equip. \$75,000.00
- Replace Clarifier Scum Pumps \$150,000.00
- A total of \$1,428,000.00

The Rehabilitation and Repair items were listed as;

- Rehabilitate Plant Lift Station \$560,000.00
- Replace Plant Water System Equipment \$138,000.00
- A total of \$ 698,000.00

Mr. Cruz stated that the plant upgrade costs was estimated at \$ 3,671,000.000 that would include; install VFDs on aeration basin motors, rehabilitate existing paving and install order control system. Project funding options were:

- Water and Wastewater General Fund
- General Obligation/Revenue Bonds
- North American Development Bank
- Texas Water Development Board, Clean Water SRF Funds and Development Funds.

David Salinas, Director of Utilities stated that there are other water efficiency grants that include energy. He stated that Hollis Rutledge was also available to seek grants for the particular project. He went on to say that \$25,000 are spent monthly on energy on the plant and the plant was being overworked. Mayor Mario Garza asked if there was a deadline to address the issues and Mr. Salinas replied by saying that there was no deadline but the state did ask to put a compliance plant together. Commissioner Pete Garcia stated that the City needed to take care of any problems because tax payers needed to see where the money was going. He also stated that they needed to keep a file and tracking system to maintain any equipment. Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo asked if there were any maintenance operators that would have seen the work that needed to be done. Mr. Salinas replied by saying that plant operators do their own maintenance and the problems listed were common. Hollis Rutledge stated that they should consider seeking funding by the water development board and looking into the certificates of obligation and revenue bonds. Mayor Mario Garza asked if there was a way to meet with TCEQ regarding the matter and Mr. Rutledge replied by saying it was possible to set up a meeting in conjunction with the Director of Utilities. Mayor Garza thanked everyone for attending and stated that the workshop had a great amount of information. Furthermore, he added that the issues would get addressed and resolved.

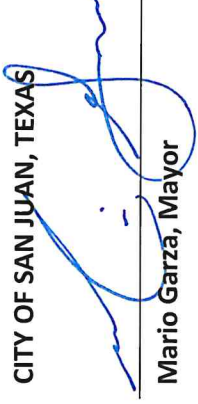
V. ADJOURNMENT 6:46 p.m.

DISCUSSION: Mayor Mario Garza asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Ernesto Guajardo motioned to adjourn meeting and seconded by Commissioner Pete Garcia. Motion passed. (4-0)

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CITY OF SAN JUAN, TEXAS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mario Garza', is written over a horizontal line.

Mario Garza, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Diana H. Cavazos', is written over a horizontal line.

Diana H. Cavazos, City Secretary