

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
March 5, 2012

The city council met in a budget worksession at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, March 5, 2012 in the conference room at city hall. This date/time was set by motion of the council on January 3, 2012.

Council members present: Sandra Hodge, Al Johnsrud, Karen Nieuwbeerta, Marvin Garbe and Bryce Curtiss. Absent: None. Mayor Debra Lee Fader absent.

Also present was City Manager Steven C. Jones, Utilities Superintendent Byron Hayunga and City Clerk Glennis A. Lauritsen.

Purpose of the worksession was to discuss various utility issues.

City Manager Jones distributed an outline to aid in the discussion. Items listed included: A) Water Conservation Rates; B) Water Tower Painting; C) Ashmore Lift Station Reconstruction; D) New Well; E) Transmission From Wells to Water Plant; F) Meter Reading Equipment; and, G) Loss Control Report/Policies.

A) Water Conservation Rates.

City Manager Jones explained that the state wants cities to have in place water conservation rates by January 2013. Staff has discussed the issue and has determined that this objective can be accomplished in-house with existing personnel and computer system. It is the intent to examine data from the past three years in an effort to get to the state's requirement of a 25% difference in seasonal rates. Jones said the easiest way to achieve this may be to adjust the city's rates 12.5% lower for six months and 12.5% higher for six months.

B) Water Tower Painting.

Utilities Superintendent Hayunga discussed the need to paint the water tower this year. He stated that specs will be written in-house. Hayunga discussed the idea of painting the tower a darker color to aid in hiding dirt, etc. and removing the design to be replaced with "Montevideo" only. Council agreed to the color change suggestion which will be incorporated into the specifications.

C) Ashmore Lift Station Reconstruction.

Hayunga discussed the need for repairs to the Ashmore Avenue lift station located at Ashmore Avenue/17th Street. This lift was constructed in the mid-1980's and was built to handle residential development only. Areas now served by the lift include the hospital, Copper Glen, VA Clinic, County Road 41 annexation properties, as well as 15th Street/Ashmore Circle developments.

Reconstruction of the lift has been budgeted for 2012, at an estimated \$50,000 (pumps, controls and some piping.) An alternate idea would be to relocate, build new and add a new forcemain. Cost of this alternative is estimated at \$750,000+ and has not been budgeted. Staff recommended reconstruction and council concurred.

D) New Well.

A map was distributed which showed the location of the city's wells and their route(s) into the city. Hayunga discussed exploring the future redevelopment of Well nos. 6 and 11. These sites were capped 10 years ago; however, staff feels they may be able to be rejuvenated at an estimated \$75,000/well. An alternate idea would be to build a new well (estimated at \$150,000+ per well.) It was noted that there is no hurry with this item; however, the existing well(s) could not handle another wet industry or another 200 homes. Staff has indicated this would be an item for consideration by 2017.

E) Transmission From Wells to Water Plant.

Jones and Hayunga discussed improvements to the existing transmission, from the wells to the water plant. Staff has researched the idea of re-lining the lines (½ the cost of a new line) and suggested conducting exploratory digging/checking in 2013, construction in 2014, 2015 or later, depending on the condition discovered in 2013. Staff estimated testing costs at \$5,000-\$6,000 per test hole, or \$12,000-\$15,000. An alternate idea would be the installation of a new transmission line down Highway 29 and Ashmore Avenue (twice the cost of re-lining and much more disruptive.) It was noted that a re-lining had taken place in the Miawakon Avenue area and had proven to be quite successful.

F) Meter Reading Equipment.

Hayunga informed the council that as meters are replaced (commercial and residential), they will be replaced with "radio read" meters. This will allow for more convenient reading of meters inasmuch as personnel can read from the vehicle rather than having to walk to each individual location.

Minutes/Budget Worksession
March 19, 2012
Page No. 3

G) Loss Control Report/Policies.

City Manager Jones distributed a listing of loss control recommendations from the city's insurance company. Each item was reviewed and discussed briefly.

City Manager Jones suggested the council consider holding an additional worksession to discuss the current refuse agreement and possible use of the former Runnings building.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Glennis Lauritsen, Secretary

Approved by council March 19, 2012:

Sandra Hodge, President