

**AURORA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

Wastewater Plant

Friday, November 1, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Linda Barton  
Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez  
Councilwoman Lisa Rentfro  
Councilwoman Doris Colwell  
Councilwoman Rosemary Henderson

All Council members were noted present except Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. City Council will meet at Wastewater Plant to tour facilities**

Orvil Maples, Wastewater Superintendent led the tour around the wastewater treatment plant and facilities.

The tour started by showing three beakers with varying stages of wastewater. The first beaker held a cloudy liquid which represented sewage the second one a very clear liquid that represented the disinfected water that comes from the plant and discharged in to the stream and the third was drinking water. The beakers represented the different stages of clarification as the wastewater goes through the plant.

The following are facts were presented on the tour:

- The stages of disinfection start with: the bar screen; pumps; oxidation ditches; clarifiers; sand filters; and UV lighting before being released into the stream.
- Original Pumps were installed at the plant in the late 1980's, none of which are working today.
- The original bar screen is thirty years of and is scheduled to be replaced with the new grant. The old bar screen had slits that were an inch apart. It will be replaced with a bar screen that has ¼ to 1/8 inch slits.
- New pumps run around \$17,000 and carry a five year warranty while repaired pumps cost around \$7,000 to be repaired. It is generally more cost efficient to buy a new pump because of the warranty they carry.
- The plant carry's around a 1.2 million gallon capacity for future growth.
- The design flow of the plant is around 2,000,000 gallons.
- The new grant will replace approximately 3,600 feet of old line from the plant to the second set of railroad tracks by MFA.
- One of the largest users in town is AFB. They are on a pre-treatment program where Orvil monitors their daily usage. Ag Forte is also a large volume user.
- The Department of Revenue requires the plant operators to hold a B license in order to operate the plant. Orvil Maple and Steve Andrews hold a B license; Richard Shoemaker and Chris Mooneyham hold C licenses.
- DNR does not allow discharge from lagoons any longer. The plant has the ability to hold water back from the lagoons until they go down to an acceptable level.

## "Improving the quality of life for Aurora"

- The plant has a unique capability to allow outside companies to dump sewage into the system. The sewage is monitored for content and a monthly charge is billed to each company. The users are required to have a permit which explains what is being dumped. No one is allowed to dump without a permit. Loads with extreme amounts of grease or ammonia are not allowed to be dumped.
- Pumps in the oxidation ditches were designed to handle 2,000,000 gallons per day. Aerators stir the water to provide microorganisms enough oxygen to break down the sewage.
- Wasting tanks are designed to separate out solid matter. This process is done about three times a week. What is left is called sludge. The sludge is required to be tested for content. Sludge is then hauled in the spring and in the fall to several local farmers. Reports have to be kept on what kinds of metals are being applied to the fields. Less than 2 tons is applied to each acre of ground. Sludge is considered to be a Class B bio solid and it cannot be applied to anything used for human consumption.
- Clarifiers are used to draw solids to the bottom. An arm travels very slowly around the top of the tank which separates the liquid and the solids and allows the solids to slowly sink to the bottom of the tank.
- The water then travels through the sand filters and on through a channel with UV lighting. Each channel has 7 tracks with 8 bulbs each for a total of 64 bulbs on each side. Before water is released into the stream it is tested for e coli.

### **B. Discussion on possible rate increase for sewer service**

The last rate increase for wastewater was in back 2010. Alegier Martin assisted the department with determining the increase. City Manager Randall stated he would like to get a cost estimate from them for a possible rate study.

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Linda Barton, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kathie Needham, City Clerk, MMC/MPCC