

City of Wimberley
221 Stillwater
Wimberley, Texas
Minutes of Special Meeting of City Council
September 29, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

City Council meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Steve Thurber.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Steve Thurber and Councilmembers Tom Talcott, Cindy Anderson, Matt Meeks, and John White. Councilmember Pam Showalter arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Staff Present: City Administrator Don Ferguson

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2014 Quarterly Investment Reports for the City of Wimberley. (*City Administrator*)

Councilmember White moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Councilmember Anderson seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Resolution

Consider approval of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Wimberley, Texas, requesting the Texas Commission on Environmental quality (TCEQ) include language in the draft permit for the City's proposed wastewater system detailing the conditions that must exist for treated effluent to be discharged into the Blanco River. (*City Administrator*)

Councilmember Showalter arrived at the meeting at this time.

City Administrator Ferguson explained the proposed resolution drafted to address concerns that future Councils may alter the discharge plan and possibly increase the volume and frequency of effluent discharged. The draft resolution reiterates the current City Council's commitment to effluent discharge only as a last resort and includes the following language:

"The daily discharge shall not exceed 75,000 GPD in the interim phase and not more than 100,000 GPD in the final phase. Applicant shall only discharge treated effluent into the Blanco River if:

- 1. The land to be surface irrigated is frozen or saturated and the on-site effluent storage tank is full and/or unavailable.*
- 2. When the Blanco River is flowing at an acceptable rate as determined by TCEQ."*

City Administrator Ferguson noted that once the draft permit is issued, there will be additional opportunities for public comment.

Mayor Thurber advised that a list of Frequently Asked Questions on the Central Wimberley Wastewater Project is available at City Hall and on the City's website.

Gail Pigg commented that the CCN is much larger than the area proposed to be served right now and expressed concerns that the plant will be expanded to serve the larger area. She said that other promises were made by previous Councils in the City's master plan, specifically that the plant will be "the highest technology plant." She said this is a package plant, not a membrane plant. She also stated there was a promise made that there would be a vote held on locating the plant in the Park (Blue Hole Regional Park). Ms. Pigg said this is a promise in the permit language, but it is not in the permit limits, and would not hold much weight, as far as future enforcement is concerned. She preferred that Council look at the option of not discharging and obtaining a "land application only" permit for this plant. Ms. Pigg also expressed concerns regarding permit limits and possible runoff. She said that a larger plant with discharge is not acceptable.

Alice Wightman felt Council has good intentions, but expressed concerns regarding lack of specifics on reuse of wastewater and associated costs. She said that having a large CCN will undermine Council's intent and was concerned that wastewater service would have to be provided to large developments such as hotels/resorts like Holiday Inn Express. She felt that Council will be surprised at the corporate presence that will arrive at their doorstep, once wastewater service is provided. Despite the proposed resolution, Ms. Wightman stated that future Councils will have to yield to the demands of future growth, because the City is required to serve its CCN. Ms. Wightman said her chief concern is stench from the effluent and she feared that developers will drive the wastewater plant and its expansion.

Rue Hatfield, co-owner of Rocky River Ranch, noted changes in the depth and flow of the Blanco River over the years. She expressed concerns over the broad scope of the permit and hoped that Council will protect the health of the public, including her business customers. Ms. Hatfield feared that water quality will be lowered and negatively affect her peace of mind about her customers using the river.

Discussion addressed:

- Clarification on the scope of the resolution to set up procedures to regulate when discharge may occur
- Specific aspects of system design, including "purple piping"
- Commitment to address concerns in the design phase related to discharge, quality of effluent, and plant odor
- Alternatives to discharge, such as scaling back operations, if conditions do not allow for discharge
- Maximum plant capacity of 100,000 GPD in final phase
- Reuse of effluent for irrigation and non-potable uses
- Amount of rain that would trigger the need for discharge
- Monitoring of river levels and irrigation fields for moisture content
- Use of Aqua Texas for emergency discharge, rather than discharging into creek
- Possible sale of effluent to Aqua Texas or other entities as an alternative to discharge

Councilmember White moved to approve the resolution, as presented. Councilmember Showalter seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Discussion and Action

- A. Discuss and consider possible action amending the Fiscal Year 2014 City of Wimberley General Fund, Wastewater, Municipal Court and Blue Hole Budgets for the purpose of accounting for actual and anticipated expenditures and revenues, and declaring adjustments as a necessity. *(City Administrator)*

City Administrator Ferguson presented the annual end-of-fiscal-year budget amendments, including consolidation of certain line items, increased legal fees, and revenue adjustments. He recommended amending the General Fund, Wastewater, and Blue Hole Budgets, as presented.

Councilmember Showalter moved to approve the amendments to the Fiscal Year 2014 City of Wimberley General Fund, Wastewater, and Blue Hole Budgets, as presented. Councilmember Anderson seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

- B. Discuss and consider approval of a professional services agreement with *Environmental Concepts, LLC* to serve as the environmental health/OSSF inspector for the City of Wimberley. *(City Administrator)*

City Administrator Ferguson recommended approval of the proposed agreement, similar in scope to the existing service agreement, with the exception of an increase in service fees as follows: the fee for any office hours worked increases from \$30 per hour to \$35 per hour; the fee for field inspections increases from \$75 per inspection to \$80 per inspection.

Councilmember Talcott moved to approve the agreement, as presented. Councilmember Showalter seconded. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Thurber called the meeting adjourned.

Adjourn

Mayor Thurber called the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Recorded by:
Cara McPartland
Cara McPartland



These minutes approved on the 2nd of October, 2014.

APPROVED:
Steve Thurber
Steve Thurber, Mayor