

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

April 7, 2009

3:20 P.M.

Councilman Rico, Chairman, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order with Councilpersons Bennett, Gaines, Gilbert, Benson, Robinson, Pierce, Berz and Page present. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present, as was Randy Burns, Management Analyst.

Others present included Greg Haynes, Larry Zehnder, Paul Page, Jerry Stewart, Dan Johnson, Gary Hilbert, Dennis Malone, Steve Leach, Chief Dodd, Chief Parker, Lee Norris, Daisy Madison and Jim Templeton. Richard Beeland joined the meeting later.

Adm. Leach stated that before he went over agenda items that we had a special treat—that Jerry Stewart was here to give a presentation on Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant. First, however, he wanted Lee Norris to speak.

Mr. Norris stated that every year we hired UTC Co-op Students, and this year we had one outstanding student—that this young man placed second in competition and was working for us and going to school—that he had now secured a job and was well on his way. He went on to note that Ariel Soriano, one of our employees, had identified a shortcoming in UTC's educational program and had approached the Dean of the Engineering School concerning this; that Mr. Soriano had been used as an adjunct professor and UTC had placed first in concrete mix. He added that in the past, students working with professional engineers had been lacking.

Adm. Leach added that these students had worked with us locally and that it was a good win for all.

At this point, Councilwoman Berz asked Mr. Stewart if he had brought samples from Solid Waste? Mr. Burns added that everyone could get a "hand full".

Mr. Stewart proceeded with his presentation, stating that he liked to give an Annual Report Card. He first showed a slide of the flagship, which is in the middle of the Moccasin Bend National Park. He stated that Moccasin Bend WWTP was the City's only manufacturing facility and Chattanooga's No. 1 Recycler. He emphasized that we have to be 10 for 10 on every TD drive.

He next covered Permit Compliance, showing a 99.8% compliance in 2008. He noted that we were still not 100% in compliance; that we had been working on our SSO's and had some issues. The daily average flow in 2008 was 66.4 mgd. He noted that 2007 was a dry year and in 2008, we made up for it in December—that this year, so far, had been good.

He discussed Biosolids Treatment, noting that it resembled an "overgrown casket". He stated that he had brought samples to show to get a "touch, feely" sensation.

Mr. Stewart went over Anaerobic Digesters, showing a picture of a Digester Gas Scrubber. At this point, Councilwoman Bennett asked if we were not using natural gas but methane. The answer was “yes”. Mr. Stewart went on to say that they had been working hard to get to this point. He mentioned the Filter Press, which has been in the news and connects five presses to new technology. Councilman Page asked if this was the equipment we had trouble with and the manufacturer had to come back. He was told “yes”. Mr. Stewart went on to say that we were making unofficial “Class A” material, with 98,228 wet tons in 2008—these are biosolids and none went to the landfill. He mentioned the value to the farmers as being approximately \$3.67 million; the value to the City is approximately \$2.8 million. He noted that this was having a major impact.

He next showed a Before and After Biosolids Land Application and went on to talk about the hay produced at the Moccasin Bend WWTP. Councilman Benson asked if there was any odor from the biosolids? Mr. Stewart responded that it was according to how you feel about it—that to him, the smell was “bread and butter”. He added that we grow hay to put on banks and to be used in city-wide service construction; also hay for camels. Councilwoman Bennett asked if they were limited where they could use the hay? Mr. Stewart responded that we were making “Class B” now and testing biosolids weekly and monthly to make sure that we are in compliance.

Mr. Stewart next talked about the Collection Sewer System, noting that there are 71 Pump Stations, 8 CSO Treatment Facilities, 184 Residential Grinder Stations, and 29,178+/- manholes, with 1246 miles of sewers. He mentioned one of the Sewer Maintenance issues as being line cleaning and there are a lot of service lateral issues where we do smoke testing.

He identified the Sewer Maintenance Issues as being line cleaning, line CCTV, footage replaces, lines sealed, and lines smoke testing.

Councilman Gilbert wanted to know what he was saving by using his method? Mr. Stewart stated that he would have to get this information for Councilman Gilbert—that it was not on the top of his head; that natural gas offsets costs.

Mr. Stewart went on to Sanitary Sewer Overflows or SSO’s, noting that the month of December lulled us into a sense of security; that we were down one pump station but had had very few repeat overflows and had cut down on back-ups in houses. He showed a picture of the Dupont Parkway Pump Station, noting that our Sewer System dates to 1890 and that we have continued efforts to get into rehabilitation of old sections.

Mr. Stewart stated that we had three CSO's in Tennessee and that we were one of the lucky ones; that in Tennessee there was us, Nashville and Clarksville. This is combined stormwater and sanitary waters. Councilman Benson asked if he was being sarcastic when he said "lucky". Mr. Stewart agreed that he was saying this "tongue in cheek". Councilman Benson asked if CSO's were much more expensive and was told "yes". We have 8 CSO's with primary treatment and screening. He showed a picture of the Tremont CSOTF, stating that we were trying to make it inconspicuous.

He next discussed the Pretreatment Program, showing that Clean Water is the Clear Choice. He mentioned restaurant inspections in regards to the FOG Program (Fats, Oils and Grease). He stated that they felt good about the restaurants. Adm. Leach added that FOG's clog up, meaning fats, oils and grease. Pictures have been taken and articles written about this.

Mr. Stewart noted that we had a Certificate of Achievement as an accomplishment—that our biosolids are certified. He went on to say that on April 16th there would be a big celebration at Moccasin Bend and that he would like for everyone to come for a formal presentation; that we were in the top 25%.

Councilman Benson asked how this fit into our budget? Mr. Stewart responded that it was all Enterprise Funds. Councilman Benson asked the cost and was told around \$40 million. Councilman Benson pointed out that constituents get something for this every time they flush their commodes. Mr. Stewart agreed that they provided services, stating that \$40 million was off the top of his head. He noted that this was not a sewer tax but a sewer service charge.

He went on to talk about things to come, mentioning the CMOM (Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance of Sewer Systems) and also WWTP.

Councilwoman Robinson asked how this would impact Enterprise South? Mr. Stewart responded that our Sewer System could handle this—that we were only talking about 500,000 gallon a day and would not be as big as people thought; that this is a new industry, and they would conserve water; that they would be very innovative, adding that water and sewers cost money.

Mr. Stewart stated that in regards to WWTP's that we had been in the reactive mode and went over equipment and maintenance reliability program, complete filter press rebuild, optimization of Digester Gas Utilization, development of biosolids beneficial reuse products, and implementation of odor and corrosion control program. He stated that they were trying to be a good neighbor.

Mr. Stewart went on to say that old pipes pose problems and that what we are facing are \$12 to \$15 million dollars that we will be spending; that our 6% rate increase is not that big compared to other cities.

He went on to show a cartoon that stated “It might be time to upgrade the system”. He stated that we have to be below par every round.

Mr. Stewart asked for questions.

Councilwoman Berz stated that she would like to make a comment; that the Council had been doing pre-budget meetings and looking at infrastructure; that the Sewer System in Nashville and Knoxville are under an Court Order, and we need to stay away from this; that we had approved in the past two months a total of \$5 million dollars to do mapping to see where we need to do better; that it will be two years before this is completed.

Mr. Stewart responded that he hoped to come back in July and go through the whole process so that the Council can see how they are spending money.

Councilwoman Berz asked if in doing the mapping if it could be projected what it will cost to repair? She wanted to know if this included all of the sewer system? Mr. Stewart responded only ½; that a lot of issues come from customers who don't maintain their pipes underground; that hopefully we will find this with smoke tests. Councilwoman Berz asked about the long-term projection of costs. Mr. Stewart stated that he did not have this information today—that this would be covered at budget time. Councilwoman Berz reminded that budget time is here, and she wanted to know the long-term projection.

Councilman Page stated that he knew Mr. Stewart tried to make this entertaining; that the Sewer System is covered by the Enterprise Fund, and he questioned what we are putting in the budget in regards to GIS and why this is not in the Enterprise Fund. Mr. Stewart responded that it was. Councilman Page asked about the sewer fee? Mr. Stewart stated that we do not spend bond money. Councilman Page asked if this was operative as compared to capital, stating that he needed to understand this. He noted that East Ridge was in Hamilton County and paid into this system. Mr. Stewart responded that they pay for debt service; that we can't take CSO money from regional customers. Councilman Page asked about Permit Compliance, noting that we were 99% in compliance and some days we were not in compliance. Mr. Stewart stated that we were in compliance 99.7%. Councilman Page wanted to know what this meant? Mr. Stewart responded that we met his permit. Attorney McMahan added that there were a lot of things to test for. Mr. Stewart explained that overflow is non-compliance days; that we had 58 days out of compliance in 2008; that we were trying to get to 100% compliance. Councilman Page wanted to know what the benchmark was? Also, how bad we were? Mr. Stewart stated that 100% was the benchmark; that he was trying to show the Council that he was improving.

Councilwoman Berz wanted to know what is allowable? Mr. Stewart responded they want \$1 million dollars, and he was trying to negotiate this down.

Councilwoman Bennett noted that we were working so hard to be in compliance rather than be fined. Mr. Stewart stated that the 6% rate increase shows that we are moving along. Adm. Leach added that it shows the product is moving along. Mr. Stewart showed “Class B”; new stuff; and what is put through a rock crusher.

Councilwoman Robinson expressed appreciation for Mr. Stewart “double bagging”!

Adm. Leach stated that they appreciated the time for this continuing education—that we were trying to get in compliance.

Adm. Leach then went to the agenda, starting with Page 1, **Ordinance 6(a)** that is a closure and abandonment for Grady H. Dagnan of a portion of the unopened 300 Block of Delawanna Terrace. This is the Pineville Rd. area, and the applicant is trying to combine property and build on one lot. The road right-of-way is not allowing this. Mr. Malone stated that they wanted to close off Delawanna and that the applicant owns both sides of the road where they are asking for an abandonment. Councilwoman Robinson asked if this was essentially unopened and was told “yes”.

Adm. Leach noted that we had already gone over **Resolution (b)** relative to a grant for Enterprise South Industrial Park rail improvements and authorizing the payment of one-half of the required local match in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 from the City. He asked if there were any questions about this? He went on to reiterate that it is a match. Councilwoman Bennett asked if this was in addition to the bond dollars and was told “yes”. Ms. Madison explained that it was in addition to the \$20 million dollars. Councilwoman Bennett asked if we anticipated this extra and was told “yes”.

Councilman Gilbert asked if all of this involved Enterprise South? Adm. Leach stated that the railroad and bridge needed to be replaced; that this was basically off the VW site but serves the VW site.

Councilwoman Berz stated that we had already approved something. Attorney McMahan stated “a bridge”.

Mr. Johnson added that one-half of this was us and one-half was the county, with Adm. Leach noting that the entire Grant is \$4 million dollars and only \$2 million is local funding.

Resolution (d) authorizes Bob Brown, on behalf of the Hickory Creek Townhomes Association, to temporarily use the 2400 Block of Hickory Valley Road to beautify and install a sign in the subdivision front entrance island. Adm. Leach stated that this was a really nice subdivision that was built in 1985, and the townhouses were done well, and they wanted to spruce up the entrance, and this is a neighborhood grant.

Resolution (e) authorizes Mitch Patel, on behalf of Hampton Inn, to temporarily use the 400 Block of Chestnut Street for canopies and parapets that overhang into the right-of-way. There is plenty of clearance and is where the Old History Museum used to be.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 14, 2009

Resolution 7(c) authorizes the City Sidewalks Requirements Contract for 2008 in the amount of \$268,508.00 plus a contingency amount of \$31,492.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00. This contract is with Yerbey. This was not reflected and Attorney McMahan stated that he would get this fixed.

Councilwoman Bennett wanted to know how they prioritized the Sidewalk Program? Mr. Malone responded that there was a list that they worked off of; some come through 311. He added that their investigators drive the streets, and they talk to RPA about what needs to be repaired. He went on to say that this is mostly repair work with some being new.

Councilman Pierce stated that he was concerned about 4th Ave.—that there had been some “milling” in the East Lake Courts. He asked if there was any potential to pave this? Lee Norris stated that he would look into this—that sometimes they did “milling” for water issues. He reiterated that he would look into this.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 P.M.