

Mayor Gregory opened the Special Workshop Meeting at 6:00 P.M. Those Councilmembers in attendance were: Gregory, Chester, Karnofski, and McDaniel. Councilmember Slater was absent the entire meeting.

Topics Of Discussion:

David Sypher, Public Works Director, noted that there had been concerns regarding capacity issues and allocation of costs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that is why he has invited these three individuals to come and explain. David explained that in order to keep the capital improvement program up to date more rate increases will be necessary.

1) System Development Charges and Allocation Methodologies.

Ed Cebron from FCS Consultant Group has been working with the Sewer Operating Board for over 15 years. Discussed were the SDC – System Development Charges - passed on to new developers. These charges help to recover the system capacity costs. Currently new developers are paying \$1900 per ERU. Recommended is a 5% increase. Council discussion followed.

Ken Stone, Cowlitz County Public Works Director, gave a brief history of the Plant. Council discussed the equality of the plant distribution. It was the consensus of the Council present that based on the current ERU's the distribution is fair. The balance between new accounts and new development as well as accommodating growth regionally has been taken into consideration.

**2) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit System
(Sanitary) NPDEPS Permit**

Public Works Director Sypher noted that a 14% rate increase is forecast for 2008 in order to stay status quo for City of Kelso residents. Reviewed was the Fact Sheet for NPDES Permit WA003778. Lengthy Council discussion followed to the various entities.

3) Sewer Plant Improvement and Sewer Rates to make Improvements

Duane Leaf, Regional Treatment Plant Superintendent, was introduced and noted that after 2008 no capital improvements will be necessary unless a disaster hits the area. The Permit and its unfunded mandates were discussed. The ammonia removal was discussed. Mr. Leaf noted that perhaps some of the Plant Staff might be available to help with the monitoring of the new Permit requirements.

6:55 P.M. Councilmember Wheeler and Fatcher arrived.

All of the Permit Requirements go back to the 'Clean Water Act.' It all comes down to the fact that System Development Charges are based on the ERU's. If the City of Longview Lagoon comes in and new development pays up front – the costs could be offset.

It was noted that in June of next year certain requirements of the Permit must be met and then again in 2010. We will have until 2013 to comply with the ammonia study.

The Council thanked Cowlitz County for coming. It's great that the various entities are working together in the Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Authority. (TRRWA).

There being no further business Councilmember Futcher moved, seconded by Councilmember Wheeler, 'Special Workshop Meeting be adjourned at 7:20 P.M.,' motion carried, all voting Yes.


MAYOR


CLERK