

**North Powder City Council Special Meeting
May 31, 2022
6:30PM New City Hall Building (340E Street)**

Attendance: Councilors Logan McCrae, Joyce Lawyer, Jeff Grende, and Vicki Townsend, City Recorder Beth Wendt, Brett Moore from Anderson Perry, Grant Administrator Nick Ducote, Rick Lawyer & Ralph Riomondo. Mayor John Frieboes and Councilors Justin Wright and Mike Morse were absent.

Councilor Vicki Townsend called the special meeting for the Wastewater Improvement Project to order. Brett Moore reported that the bid tabulations for the Wastewater Project were done. The contractor had some concerns about how to bid the project so it was revised to add more detail. It was broken down into three areas: things that need to be done to be in compliance; other things that need to be done to the system; and bio solid removal. Brett noted that the contractor was given 4 months before construction is to begin in order to get supplies in stock. He compared the project to a similar project that was bid in November 2021 in Echo for pricing. We only received one bid and it was more than twice what Echo got a few months ago. Vicki wondered what our options were. Brett felt the bid was really high but it is questionable as to whether we can do better. However, we don't have the funding to even do the compliance issues. He reiterated that the project could be done 3 phases. He suggested we deny this bid and re-bid in the fall. In the meantime, we can look for more funding. Jeff felt just by getting multiple bids the competition would make the bids lower. Brett agreed. He thought we could work with the DEQ to get extensions on the NPDES permit, the MAO and the fill/removal permit for the wetland. DEQ already knows that we want to get an extension but until we get a contractor on board we don't know what the deadline should be to be out of the river. Ralph was concerned about the bio solids. Brett thought once we get out of the river that would be the least of our problems. Once we get the wetland established, there are options on how bio solid removal can be done that are a lot cheaper than dredging. He reiterated that our project is actually a pretty simple process but it requires a lot of permits. Nick interjected that if we can extend the permits it would give us time to look for more money. We have almost 2 years on the CDBG grant. October/November would be an ideal time to re-bid. He recommended that we go after another \$50,000 on our CDBG grant for the compliance issues. Anything more than that will take too long and we would be back to bidding in the spring. In the meantime, we can create a second project to do the bio-solid removal and all of the extra work on the pipes and collection system. We can apply for more grants. We may have to take out a low interest loan or 50-50 grant/loan. The more we can put into the second project, the more likely we are to get additional grant money. Jeff made a motion to deny the bid from Michael A. Becker, General Contractor, Inc. Logan seconded. All were in favor. Beth clarified that we will re-bid the project in the fall. Brett agreed. In the meantime, we should continue to look for funding. Nick suggested the Council authorize himself and Beth to do that. Jeff moved to authorize Beth and Nick to look for additional funds. Logan seconded. All were in favor. Nick added that DEQ has some money. It might not be the best fit for now but it could be good for the bio solid removal. The water/wastewater program might be the way to go for now. We should be able to get a 30 year low interest loan. Jeff wondered if Anderson Perry talked with other contractors about our project. Brett said yes, but by the time the bidding opened they already had loaded schedules. Logan asked what would happens if we don't get a better bid this fall. At that point, Brett said we will have to look closer at the project to see how much we can cut. There are some escalation and de-escalation clauses added to the contract that will help cover inflation. Rick wondered if the fountains were the best process for evaporation. Brett thought so.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt
City Recorder