

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF BURLINGTON
COUNTY OF KIT CARSON
STATE OF COLORADO
Community Building
340 S 14th Street
6:30 pm
April 11, 2016

Mayor Kerry Korsvold called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

1 The roll call of members was read and those answering were:

Carla Foth	Mike Halde	Beth Crites
Mark Burghart	Kamron Weisshaar	Harold Mc Nerney

Absent:

Staff/Officials:

James Bradley, City Administrator
Mike Grinnan, City Attorney
Shelly Clark, City Clerk
Veronica Boyles, City Treasurer

Also:

Dale Franklin
Judy Standley
Jim Carter
Krystal Weisshaar
Glenn Lucas
Carol Lucas
Randy Carney
Kathy Winters
Belinda Wilks
Deb Gutierrez
Rod Murray

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Consent Agenda Items

Any consent agenda item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Business if discussion is desired. Otherwise, one motion will pass all items.

Minutes for 3-28-2016.
Approval of the bills.

MOTION by Foth, second by Crites to approve the consent agenda items.

Those yea: Foth, Halde, Burghart, Weisshaar, Crites, Mc Nerney

Those nay:

Motion passes.

4 Public Comments-

5 Public Hearing

Informing the citizens of the City of Burlington about the proposed drinking water project to reduce nitrate levels in order to meet all Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

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standards for water quality for all customers in compliance with the Federal public participation requirement. At such time and place all citizens and interested parties may appear and be heard.

Mayor Korvsold opened the public hearing at 6:35pm and asked all Council and staff to introduce themselves. Mayor Korvsold stated the purpose of the hearing, including a brief description of the application and the action that the hearing body may legally take on the application. Korvsold asked the members of the hearing body if they have any interest in the property or the application, if they stand to gain or lose any financial benefit, if they can consider the application in a fair and objective manner and if they engaged in any ex parte communications with either proponents or opponents of the application. All members stated they do not and they can consider the application fairly.

Mayor Korsvold introduced James Bradley, City Administrator, to give the presentation on the State Revolving Loan Fund.

The City of Burlington gets its water supply from deep wells within the Ogallala Aquifer which generally furnishes excellent quality water, with the exception of nitrate levels. The nitrate concentration in several of the City's wells has exceeded the State/EPA limit of 10 mg/l (milligrams per liter) causing the State to mandate that the City reduce these levels by December 2017.

Primary in the need to reduce nitrate levels is the method of operation of the present Burlington supply system which involves the individual injection from ten wells directly into the City's distribution system. Because of this, customers receive varying water quality, some above and some below the permitted nitrate level.

Four approaches to reduce nitrate levels were evaluated by the City's project engineer: 1) Water Treatment; 2) operating a dual distribution system; 3) the possibility of acquiring additional Low Nitrate Wells; and 4) Blending.

Employing traditional water treatment techniques for purposes of removing only nitrates is rare. However, there are three candidate processes that were considered: 1) Reverse Osmosis; 2) Ion Exchange; and 3) Biological Denitrification. Alternatives would either locate the treatment facilities at each high-nitrate well or, more logically, combine the well supplies at a central point. If treatment to remove nitrates was determined to be a necessary component of the Burlington water supply strategy, then the use of RO would be the present preferred selection. Since (at least partial) blending is an obvious probable approach, treatment should be planned at a central point – not at individual wells. The high unit cost of RO treatment, as well as the uncertainty of future nitrate levels, precludes the adoption of less efficient system designs. Water treatment is also more expensive and complex to operate.

A dual water system involves a two-pipe distribution system. For Burlington, the primary system would provide potable water and firefighting flows. The second pipe system would provide irrigation water and, possibly, some industrial demand. Separate service lines and meters would also be required. The irrigation supply source would be from the high nitrate, non-potable wells. A dual distribution system would work well for Burlington. However, its total use is economically impractical to resolve the immediate high nitrate problem because of the high cost of retrofitting existing developed areas of the City and the inflexibility of such a system providing a long-term solution for reducing nitrate levels while providing adequate water supply to the system's customers.

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The development or acquisition of other ground water sources having low nitrate concentrations could be an economical alternative to support growth. The City's acquisition of the Halde Wells was fortuitous, both from the standpoint of providing additional water supplies but also with regard to water quality. However, with no certain additional water supplies available and the uncertainty that the supplies will be low in nitrates, the potential of providing for the City's needs, by December 2017 and until 2045, without blending is extremely low, and therefore was not considered further.

The presently available 12 wells have varying levels of nitrate – some above and some below the 10.0 mg/L drinking water MCL set by CDPHE. Each operating well now pumps directly to a point in the distribution system closest to the well. The result is that water quality varies throughout the Burlington service area. Some customers usually receive water with high nitrate levels, while others receive water below the 10.0 mg/L limit.

A well-designed blending approach will combine water from low nitrate and high nitrate wells such that all customers have similar acceptable quality water. Infrastructure improvements will connect the wells centrally for blending before entering the distribution system. Regular nitrate monitoring at the central station will be necessary to ensure the combined water consistently meets the desired nitrate level. The central blending facility will also house a chlorinator for supplementary disinfection prior to its entry into the distribution system.

The key design criteria for this project were:

- 1) to reduce nitrate levels to 9 mg/l or less;
- 2) to make sure that the City can utilize the solution on a long-term basis;
- 3) to meet the City's future water demands while allowing for growth between now and 2045; and
- 4) to meet an anticipated peak day demand of 3.0 million gallons a day in a dry year.

Blending provides a cost-effective, immediate solution to Burlington's nitrate problem. Using the project criteria, the resulting project will provide a maximum day demand of 3.42 million gallons per day with a projected nitrate level of 7.89 mg/l.

As comparative to decentralized treatment options, this option requires significantly less operator attention. By pumping from the wells to a central location, this solution also puts in place some of the infrastructure needed to build a centralized treatment facility in the future which could be an optimal second phase solution if nitrate levels and/or demands continue to increase. The disadvantage of blending is that system performance depends on predicted nitrate levels. Dramatic increases in nitrate levels at multiple well sites, or increased demand may jeopardize nitrate compliance. However, water demand rate projections and design nitrate concentrations that the Engineer thought were most conservative have been used in formulating this program.

The most important component, and one is not lost on the funders, regulating agencies, and hopefully rate payers, is the long-term viability of the blending facility in keeping the City in compliance with water quality standards. To that extent, it is the engineer's opinion that this project puts into place the key elements of a drinking water treatment system should the City find itself needing to further reduce nitrate levels or deal with other water quality issues based on changing regulations. There is no waste of money in the event a water treatment plant is required in the future because all of the infrastructure of the blending facility will be used.

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It is the Engineer's option, therefore, that this project represents the most feasible, readily implementable and economical corrective plan to satisfy the design criteria and the best option to accommodate future long-term alternatives.

The City has been notified that it will be the recipient of a \$2.0 million Energy & Mineral Impact Grant that must be used for the nitrate reduction project. These grant funds are considered leverage for a \$2.5 million loan that the City is applying for through the State Revolving Loan Fund, which are federal dollars that are administered by the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. With the funding package being proposed, the City can expect to secure a 30-year loan at 1% with an annual payment of around \$97,000 which will require a subsequent minor increase in water rates and increases possibly every three to five years thereafter. Without this particular package, the City will need to pursue a private revenue bond, the term of which would likely be less than 30 years with an interest rate at or above 5%. The resulting annual payment would be over \$300,000 and water rates would immediately increase \$15 per month.

A condition of applying for these State Revolving Loan Funds, because they are federal dollars, was to conduct an Environmental Assessment. The City retained Environmental Resources Corporation, who studied the proposed project area.

ERO determined that construction of the central blending facility and additional supply pipelines may have direct impacts from facility construction and secondary and cumulative impacts from future development within the project area. Secondary impacts are those induced or stimulated by, or as a result of, the proposed action. These can include cumulative, social and land use impacts, among others. Cumulative impacts are the collective incremental impacts of the proposed action regardless of the entity undertaking the action. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. From the characteristics of the proposed project, and descriptive elements of the environmental setting, probable impacts are direct and/or secondary. Potential secondary and cumulative impacts on the environment from new development such as increased quantity and decreased quality of urban runoff, degradation of wetland and wildlife habitat, and increased air pollution and noise are likely to affect the project area.

From that ERO determined that the unavoidable adverse impacts of all construction and development-related projects that may not be fully mitigated include:

- Short-term increases in noise and ambient air particulate levels and increased traffic in the immediate vicinity of construction activities;
- Increased temporary pollution in the form of storm water runoff from construction sites and impervious surfaces, particularly at the location of the proposed Central Blending Facility;
- Loss of low quality wildlife habitat due to construction, most of which would be temporary; and
- Temporary impacts on farmland.

So ERO states that the following mitigation alternatives are recommended to minimize or compensate for impacts from the proposed project:

- Vegetation disturbed during construction will be reestablished with appropriate species;
- Dust-control measures will be implemented if dust from the construction site becomes a nuisance;

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- To avoid harming potential migratory birds and their nests, vegetation should be removed from within the construction areas outside of the breeding season, which is typically between October and March. Pre-construction surveys could ensure that new nests have not been established since the 2016 site visit;
- BMP's would be followed for erosion control and revegetation; and
- Noxious weed establishment following construction would be addressed in accordance with Kit Carson County and/or State of Colorado noxious weed management plans.

Mayor Korsvold asked for questions:

Jim Carter asked how many taps the City has? Carter stated that an RO system is around \$700.00 and suggested it would be less to install one in every residential and business location. Bradley shared that the cost to put an RO system for every person in the City would vary in cost and the maintenance would be costly. Bradley shared that the State has put limitation on what the City can do to correct the nitrate issue. Grinnan shared that the State of Colorado would like to monitor the nitrates that everyone is getting. Carter feels it would cost less to hire extra help to take care of the maintenance on the individual RO systems. Bradley shared that the State requires testing at the well and he does not know if the State would see that installing RO systems as correcting the nitrate issue. If we go to the blending station we will be doing a 3 point testing system. The State is requiring that we have this done by 2017. Bradley shared that we are hopeful that this blending station will last until 2045.

Randy Carney asked what guarantees the City has that the State is not going to change the rules after the issue is fixed. Grinnan shared that the State has been clear on the requirements, but there are no guarantees that the requirements will not change. Bradley shared that an update on the system can be done at a later date, if needed.

Belinda Wilks asked where the blending station will be located: Bradley shared at the old Airport at Industrial Park. Wilks asked if that was the old dump: Bradley shared that it was and that we had an environmental study done to be sure the location is safe for the blending station. Wilks asked if the City owns the land. Bradley shared that the City does own the land.

Judy Standley asked if the new people moving into the community are made aware of the high nitrates. Bradley shared we are required by the State of Colorado to post. Foth stated it is also posted at City Hall.

Hearing closed at 7:00pm.

6 Departments

- A. Administrator- James Bradley-**Asked Council if the 18th it would work to have training.
- B. Attorney-Mike Grinnan**
- C. Clerk- Shelly Clark**
- D. Treasurer- Veronica Boyles-** Organizing and learning.

7 Work Session Topics

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Unfinished Business

New Business

- A. Requesting Council approval to declare equipment list from City Shop and the Ricoh 3035(copier at City Hall) as surplus and ready for auction.

Foth asked to add to the list old baseball scoreboard. Grinnan asked about the old Police cars. Bradley will talk to Romans about the Police cars.

MOTION by Weisshaar, second by to McNerney approve the equipment list, the copier and add the old baseball scoreboard to the list as surplus.

Those yea: Foth, Halde, Burghart, Weisshaar, Crites, McNerney

Those nay:

Motion passes.

Clark and Boyles were allowed to leave the meeting at 7:05pm. Franklin and Murray were asked to stay for the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: CRS Section 24-6-402(4)(b) receiving legal advice.

MOTION by McNerney, second by Weisshaar to move into executive session CRS Section 24-6-402(4)(b) receiving legal advice.

Those yea: Foth, Halde, Burghart, Weisshaar, Crites, McNerney

Those nay:

Motion passes.

MOTION by Crites, second by Weisshaar to reconvene back to regular session.

Those yea: Foth, Halde, Burghart, Weisshaar, Crites, McNerney

Those nay:

Motion passes.

8 REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- A. Mayor Kerry Korsvold-Welcomed our new Council members.
- B. Carla Foth
- C. Mike Halde
- D. Mark Burghart
- E. Kamron Weisshaar
- F. Beth Crites
- G. Harold McNerney

9 MOTION by Foth, second by Burghart to adjourn the meeting at 7:27PM.

Those yea: Foth, Halde, Burghart, Weisshaar, Crites, McNerney

Those nay:

Motion passes.

Kerry Korsvold, Mayor

Shelly Clark, City Clerk

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