

Special City Commission Meeting

Mayor Stebbins presiding

CALL TO ORDER: 12:00 PM

ROLL CALL: City Commissioners present: Dona R. Stebbins, Bill Bronson, John Rosenbaum and Mary Jolley. Commissioner Beecher was excused. Also present were the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Acting City Attorney, Director of Public Works, and the City Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS

**Emergency Declaration
and Construction
Contract Award.
Approved. OF 1566.5.**

1. EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARD.

Public Works Director Jim Rearden thanked the Commissioners for calling this special meeting. He reported that on September 11, 2009, a call came in of a suspected major water main break on Bay Drive – which turned out to be a break on a 30” sewer force main. Mr. Rearden explained the following sequence of events:

- By 7:50 in the morning it was determined that it was a sanitary sewer break and emergency locates were ordered. The break occurred adjacent to storm drain inlets on Bay Drive resulting in a discharge to the Missouri River. DEQ was then dully notified of this discharge.
- Veolia was contacted to adjust flows from the Sun River lift station and by shortly after 9:00 am the site had been secured with pumps in place to begin discharging the overflow to a downstream manhole. Storm drain inlets were covered and a dirt berm was being placed around the site to contain the sewage.
- This force main carries approximately 2 million gallons per day and serves an area comprising the entire City south of 10th Avenue South, all of the Fox Farm/Belview areas and most of West Great Falls. Storage capacities in the Sun River and Lower River Road lift stations and pump adjustments were utilized to even the flows in the force main, so the existing portable pumps could stay even with the flow. A larger pump was ordered from Godwin pumps in Helena and arrived on site at 6:30 pm. It was placed into service and provided enough capacity to stay ahead of the flows. The pump operations were maintained through the weekend.
- The 30” pipe, which was installed in 1976, is a concrete cylinder pipe, which consists of a steel pipe with an interior concrete coating and an exterior wire mesh reinforced concrete coating. After crews

were able to get the break pumped down to examine the pipe, it was found that a 10 foot section of the top of the pipe had collapsed. The break was typical of pipe deterioration caused by hydrogen sulfide corrosion.

- Fortunately the break occurred about 100 feet from the end of the force main, so a downstream manhole was readily available to pump sewage into, and also line pressure in the pipe was only about 5 psi.
- The pipe is an uncommon type, fittings were not available and the pipe did not appear to be sound enough to cut into to attempt to replace a section, so a temporary repair was concocted.
- On September 16th, crews tested a repair patch and staged for a repair that night. Since flows in the main are so high, the repair was planned for the middle of the night when flows are much lower. By staging the lift stations and utilizing their storage capacity, an approximate 3 hour window would be available to make the repairs.
- At 2:00 am on September 17th, crews began the repair with assistance from Veolia's monitoring of the lift stations. The repair patch was placed and fast cure concrete arrived about 2:30. The repair was complete by 3:00 am giving ample time for the concrete to cure before flow resumed.
- The condition of the pipe, which could be visually inspected, indicated severe deterioration at least to the downstream manhole, prompting this plan to replace approximately 400 feet of the pipe with new PVC pipe.
- Plans and specifications were prepared, replacement pipe and fittings were ordered and 4 local qualified contractors were asked to bid on the project. Three of those contractors responded with bids which were received on October 21st.
- Commissioners were previously notified of the break via an e-mail issued by the City Manager on September 14th.

Mr. Rearden requested that the City Commission declare this repair an emergency which allows the formal bid process to be waived, and to award the bid for the pipe replacement to Ed Boland Construction, the low bidder.

Mr. Rearden personally complimented the City utility crews and, particularly, Mike Judge and Bruce Hagen, for their quick initial response,

vigilant monitoring of the situation and flawless late night repairs.

Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the City Commission declare an emergency for the Bay Drive force main repairs, authorize the City Manager to execute the declaration and award a construction contract to Ed Boland Construction in the amount of \$145,800.

Mayor Stebbins asked if there was any discussion amongst the Commissioners or any inquiries from the public. No one responded.

City Manager Gregory Doyon reported that the repair will be paid out of the sewer capital fund, which has a balance of \$3,941,981.

Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, **Commissioner Bronson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosenbaum, that the special meeting of October 23, 2009, be adjourned at 12:07 p.m.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Stebbins

City Clerk

Minutes Approved: November 3, 2009