

COUNCIL AGENDA: OCTOBER 7, 2014

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES – REPAIR OF WELL #6 AND REPAIR OF THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY BLOWER #4

SOURCE: Public Works Department - Engineering Division

COMMENT: During the month of September 2014, the City experienced problems with Well #6 located at 437 W Kanai and with Blower #4 at the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF). Both problems required quick repair work to prevent potential health and safety issues. City Code 2-38, Emergency Expenditures/Appropriations, authorizes an expenditure of up to \$100,000 in an extraordinary emergency for the preservation of the public peace, health, or safety. Pursuant to City Code 2-38, these circumstances were communicated to the Mayor by the City Manager and the expenditure was approved by the Mayor due to the extraordinary emergency of the situation. A copy of City Code 2-38 is attached for your reference.

The motor on Well #6 failed and had to be taken offline. The Water Division contacted Valley Pump & Dairy and received a “not to exceed” quote of \$24,500 to replace the motor, install new pump bowls, 60’ of new casing and replace 20’ of damaged casing. Well #6 is a 550 gallon per minute well and taking it offline would not have normally caused a problem, but unfortunately Well #21, located across from the Police Department, was also taken offline due to rising nitrate levels.

Each year, Well #21 is brought online to help meet high water demands during the summer. After continuous service Well #21 sometimes experiences higher than acceptable nitrate levels. Staff carefully monitors this situation and when nitrate levels approach the maximum contaminate level (MCL), the well is taken offline. Having Well #6 and Well #21 offline for an extended period of time would have presented some water pressure issues adversely affecting businesses and the hospital that rely on minimum City-wide pressure to activate sprinkler systems.

Regarding Blower #4, this piece of equipment is one of three blowers that continuously inject air into the influent (gray water) as part of the treatment process. Two blowers must operate at all times to maintain the proper air-to-influent volume ratio with the third blower on standby.

During the week of September 22, 2014, Blower #4 developed a strong vibration and was taken offline to prevent serious damage. The two remaining blowers were pressed into service with no “standby” capacity available. Abacus IMT provided a “not to exceed” quote of \$25,000 to fix

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Blower #4. The decision was made to proceed with the repair due to the fact that the loss of either remaining blower would bring the WWTF to a halt. It should be noted that a new blower costs between \$54,000 and \$58,000, and takes approximately six weeks to deliver and install.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Ratify that the repair of Well #6 and the repair of Blower #4 were necessary and met the emergency criteria as promulgated in Article VII, Section 2-38 of the City Code;
2. Direct the Finance Director to initiate a Purchase Order to Valley Power and Abacus IMT in the amounts not to exceed \$24,500 and \$25,000 respectively; and
3. Direct the Finance Director to make payment to Valley Power and Abacus IMT upon receipt of invoices approved by the Public Works Director.

ATTACHMENT: City Code 2-38, Emergency Expenditures/Appropriations

2-38: EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES/APPROPRIATIONS:

An appropriation and/or expenditure of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) is authorized without additional prior council approval, if: a) the city manager has requested that such an appropriation/expenditure be made; b) the mayor has determined that the circumstances for the request constitute an extraordinary emergency, meaning that there is an immediate need to make such appropriation/expenditure for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety; and c) the city manager notifies the council of the specific appropriation/expenditure in writing. (Ord. 1704 § 1, 10-3-2006)