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Press Release

City commissioners approve standardized well house design

Design will be used to build new well house for Well No. 8, west of Ark City

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (August 19, 2015) — The City Commission of Arkansas City voted 4-1 on Tuesday night to approve a contract with Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC) to provide a design for new well houses, for an amount not to exceed \$56,000.

The design firm would provide structural, electrical, control and mechanical design services for improvements that could be made to all of the City's existing wells in the Arkansas River alluvium.

Commissioner Brandon Every cast the lone dissenting vote.

The City currently is under contract with Layne Christensen Company to offset and drill a new Well No. 8, which has collapsed and is out of operation, but the second phase of this project includes the design and construction of a new well house, as well as providing for backup power options.

City staff requested that the design be such that when additional wells are offset and re-drilled, a standard well house design could be used to obtain competitive bids for construction.

PEC representative Sarah Unruh said the scope of the contract also would have the company looking at whether to keep utilities aboveground or move them underground, as well as the electrical, structural and civil design of a generator to be capable of operating Well Nos. 5 and 8.

Pump parameters, variable frequency drives and soft starts for the pumps also will be studied.

"The purpose of doing it this way is we design a standard well house. Then you can use that building design for all of your other locations," Unruh explained. "So then what you're doing with the other locations is ... just designing the well part of them."

"As we move forward, we can just do site civil surveying and study elevation," said Public Works Director Eric Broce, touting the advantages of a standard, uniform preapproved well-house design.

For immediate release

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As part of a cash flow analysis for the City's water fund that was presented Tuesday, Broce has targeted rehabilitating a well each year from 2016 through 2019, at a projected cost of \$250,000 a year.

In other business, the commission:

- recognized and congratulated EMS Director Jeri Smith for her recent appointment by Gov. Sam Brownback to the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services.
- voted unanimously to table a contract with BRB Contractors, Inc. to repair the existing digester roof and replace an aeration blower at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for an amount not to exceed \$156,200.
- voted unanimously to table a contract with BRB Contractors, Inc. to repair the mixing unit in the primary softening basin at the Water Treatment Plant for an amount not to exceed \$143,000.
- heard a presentation from Andale Ready Mix on the super slurry, roller-compacted concrete and high-density mineral bond road construction processes the company is using. The commission directed Broce to bring back a project proposal at a future meeting that would use some of the processes on North 15th Street, north of Radio Lane.
- unanimously approved the first amendment to the loan agreement by and between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, acting on behalf of the State of Kansas, and the City of Arkansas City, the City of Winfield, and the Strother Field Commission.
- voted 4-0 to approve a loan and reimbursement agreement with South Central Kansas Medical Center, formalizing the verbal agreement that was authorized Aug. 4. Under the terms of the agreement, SCKMC will repay a \$300,000 interest-free loan from the City in 12 monthly installments of \$25,000, starting in September. Commissioner Dan Jurkovich abstained.
- heard updates from City Manager Nick Hernandez concerning the administration of Cowley County Drug Task Force funds, two vacancies on the Arkansas City Public Library Board of Trustees, the passing of Creekstone Farms Premium Beef director of operations Steve Endres and the projected cash flow analysis for the City's water fund for the next five years.