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Press Release

Commissioners approve water treatment engineering contracts

Engineers will design waste disposal line from new plant to wastewater plant

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (September 17, 2015) — The City Commission of Arkansas City voted 4-1 on Tuesday night to approve three professional engineering contracts related to the new Water Treatment Facility's waste disposal process during their regular meeting at City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave.

Commissioner Brandon Every cast all three dissenting votes after stating he was concerned about the rising cost of engineering for the new water treatment plant and associated projects.

The commissioners also unanimously approved an agreement with Ranson Financial Consultants, LLC to provide grant administration services for the City, for an amount not to exceed \$19,500, if it is awarded a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to help to pay for a waste disposal line.

The City concluded a two-month LMI (low to moderate income) survey this week, determining that about 80 percent of respondents were LMI. More than 51 percent of citizens responded to the survey.

The other three items approved were:

- a contract agreement with Arkansas City-based Smith & Oakes, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$164,600, to provide engineering design, bidding, construction administration, staking and inspection services for the waste line, which would run from the new plant on West Madison Avenue to the Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1701 South M St.
- an amendment to the contract agreement between the City and Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$197,786, for modifications to the original scope of professional engineering services for the new Water Treatment Facility.
- a contract agreement with Burns & McDonnell to provide professional engineering services for evaluating how to expand the City's existing water right, for an amount not to exceed \$24,786.

For immediate release

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All four resolutions passed Tuesday night were discussed previously and tabled at a special City Commission meeting last Friday. Representatives of all three companies were present at that meeting.

In other business, the commission:

- witnessed Arkansas City Police Officers Wade Hammond and Ann Hale being introduced by Police Chief Dan Ward and sworn in by City Clerk Lesley Shook.
- unanimously approved the following consent agenda items: approving the Sept. 1 regular meeting minutes as written; and a resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Aging Projects, Inc. to continue providing nutritional services at the Senior Citizens Center. The new contract will renew automatically each year unless the City decides to terminate it.
- heard a first reading of and voted unanimously to approve an ordinance adopting by reference the updated Uniform Public Offense Code for 2015-16. The code is prepared by the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) to update all criminal laws with any changes made in 2015 by the state Legislature. Passage ensures the City can prosecute these crimes in municipal court.
- heard a first reading of and voted unanimously to approve an ordinance adopting by reference the updated Standard Traffic Ordinance for 2015-16. The ordinance is prepared by LKM to update all traffic laws with any changes made in 2015 by the state Legislature.
- voted unanimously to approve a resolution authorizing the purchase of a new 2015 Freightliner 108SD dump truck with a stainless steel dump body, snow plow, spreader and brine tanks for the Public Works Department, for an amount not to exceed \$150,964. It is replacing a 20-year-old truck that is at the end of its useful life. The City was able to obtain a lower pricing for the new truck thanks to a State of Kansas bulk contract with the manufacturer.
- heard a first reading of and voted 4-1 to approve an ordinance to update the City's water conservation code to current standards as provided by a model ordinance from the Kansas Water Office. After a failed attempt to amend Commissioner Duane Oestmann's original motion to remove a section that prohibits the drilling of private residential or commercial wells, other than those for irrigation, within the City limits, Commissioner Every cast the dissenting vote.
- voted 4-1 to approve a resolution, with Every dissenting, to amend the City's comprehensive fee schedule to add shutoff and reconnection fees that would be assessed against residents who violate the new water conservation code, if a water emergency ever were to be declared by the city manager or City Commission. This resolution does not affect the current shutoff or reconnection fees that are charged as part of the normal utility billing process.

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- heard updates from City Manager Nick Hernandez on National Night Out, which will be held Oct. 5-6, and a legislative luncheon starting at 11 a.m. Oct. 9 at the Senior Citizens Center.
- heard from Commissioner Dan Jurkovich, who requested a future agenda topic or special study session to discuss email protocols, the Kansas Open Meetings Act and whether to reinstate the procedure of having study sessions prior to every regular meeting of the City Commission.