

Norwalk Utility Advisory Commission – Special Meeting
May 25, 2017 6:30 pm
Public Works Facility

The special meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:29 pm on May 25, 2017 by chair Newton Standridge. Members present at roll call: Newton Standridge, Tim Kalvig, Ric Graves, Dan Merriman. Absent: Aaron Uhl.

Staff present: Tim Hoskins, Public Works Director; Joseph Ballard, Assistant Director Public Works; Shelley Stravers, Administrative Coordinator and Luke Nelson, City Manager.

Council Liaison Erika Isley was also present.

Agenda

Motion by Merriman and seconded by Graves to approve Agenda as presented. Approved 4-0.

Minutes

A motion was made by Kalvig and seconded by Merriman to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2017 meeting. Approved 4-0.

Old Business:

Secondary Water Source -

Mr. Nelson summarized the secondary water access. The Mayor and City Council has made it a goal and priority to research secondary water access for Norwalk. This is an immediate concern as well as a long-term issue. There are several options for secondary water access point. There is also a Hydraulic Water Study that is set to begin in the near future and be completed in February of 2018. This Study will provide sound research to help support our future water capacity decisions.

The Council recently discussed a timeline where it was understood that the Hydraulic Study would come before a decision on which option to choose for the secondary water source. Upon communicating this timeline to the DMWW we found some concern. There is urgency to move forward as quickly as possible due to the rapid growth rate that Norwalk is experiencing. We also learned that there would be significant water wheeling charges for the South Orilla option. The significant added cost prompted Staff to revisit other options that could be more viable long-term solutions. While revisiting the Western Feeder option, a new idea surfaced. The cost could be reduced by almost 25% if we would continue to use the 8" main that currently connects Cumming and Norwalk.

The funding source for this project would be bonds which would be paid through water rates and possibly benefits/assessment districts. This project will likely cause a water rate increase. Jean Furler has performed some preliminary calculations.

The options are as follows:

ALTERNATIVES:		Near Term Water Tower Needed	Short/Long-Term Solution	Additional Capacity for Cumming	Estimated Cost	Water Supplied	Rural Water Buyout
1	Western Feeder All Phases	N	Long-Term	Y	5,790,260	Excess of 500 GPM (capacity of 2.4MGD)	N
2	Western Feeder Phase 1-4 (use existing 8" from Cumming to Norwalk)	N	Long-Term	Y	3,206,279	500GPM (capacity of 2.4MGD)	N
3	S Orilla Road (includes water wheeling and WWD buyout)	Y	Short-Term (5 yrs)	Y	3,100,000	500GPM	Y
4	Upsize Pumps at existing source	∅	Short Term (2 yrs)	N	Unknown	Unknown	N
5	Alternative source from DMWW at North Shore or	Unknown	Long-Term	N	Unknown	Unknown	N
6	Delay all action until Hydraulic Study is complete	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Nelson also added that in several of the options there would be the ability for the City to own the new pipe, but there is also the option to just own the rights of the water running through the pipe, and not the actual pipe. This would mean that if someone tapped that, they would have to purchase that water from the City of Norwalk. Ballard noted that would be the best of both worlds since we would not have to maintain the pipe but would have rights to all the water. Nelson also noted that City Council would be the deciding body as to whether or not someone was allowed to tap into the pipe.

Nelson explained that Option #3 is a short-term option since West Des Moines Water Works only wanted the agreement to be for three years, and would also include a Warren Water buyout. This would result in us paying a large amount of money and only having a solution for a 3 year period.

Graves had great concern with making sure that the City had a secondary source of water in case of floods similar to 1993, so that we are not completely out of water if the Fleur Drive water needs to be shut off due to flooding. If we went with Option #1 or #2, we would have the secondary feeder coming from Maffitt Lake Reservoir and would hopefully eliminate this issue.

Nelson noted that Option #1 comes with a very large price tag and might be too large of a rate increase to stomach. Isley agreed that that is a large amount of money and would like to see the rate increase numbers with the different options. Nelson noted that Jean Furler did have some rough numbers for rate increases and would report that at the City Council meeting, he did not have those tonight. Isley also noted that this increase would be supported with a tangible project that would benefit all residents of Norwalk, which might make it easier for the residents to understand.

Nelson also noted that if Option #2 was chosen, we could upgrade the 8" main from Cumming to Norwalk over time, and could spread that portion of the cost out over

more time, which wouldn't be as much of an impact to the residents. But the benefit of having the additional source would be there and we could make changes as we can afford.

Option #4 was discussed and why it had already been taken off as an option. As they discussed this with Des Moines Water Works, this was not going to be a benefit at all. No matter what size the pumps are, you can't expect more water to come through the same size pipe. Ballard noted that upgrades to these pumps have been on the radar, as this will save electricity with the variable speed pumps, and the pumps are very old. Commission expressed interest in finding out what the cost to replace those pumps would be.

Nelson explained that Option #5 is tapping into the same line, just upstream and that wouldn't be as beneficial as Option #1 or #2.

Option #6 would be to wait until we have received our Hydraulic Study back and know exactly what our needs are and have the research to back that up. The issue with this, is time. Right now, if we moved forward today with one of the other options, we would not have completion until October 2018. If we waited on the results of the Hydraulic Study, that would put us in October of 2019. Isley noted that there still could be Council hesitation without the Hydraulic Study being complete.

Several Commission members commented that we need to have more capacity and we cannot wait with our current growth rate. Nelson added that if we intend to continue building residential, commercial, industrial, etc. we will need to provide water. If we don't do something right now, we will have to stop the growth in Norwalk until we are able to provide water. Everyone agreed that was not an option.

Nelson also added that if we go with Option #2, due to the amount of capacity added, that would prolong the amount of time before we need additional above ground storage for water. We had a water tower in the two year CIP, and if that could be postponed, the rate increase for water customers would change from 9% for several years, to 3% for several years. Ballard added that it's good news we are still at the low end of metro water rates. Another benefit of a secondary source would be that maintenance could be performed on other parts of the system without the worry of shutting the whole city down.

Motion by Kalvig and seconded by Graves to approve Option #2 of the Secondary Water Access Alternatives which has an estimated cost of \$3,206,279 and will serve as a long term option for the City. Approved 3-0.

Standridge called the meeting to adjournment at 7:42 pm.

Next Regular Meeting June 12, 2017.

Newton Standridge, Chair

Shelley Stravers,
Administrative Coordinator