

The Clear Lake City Council met in special session on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30 PM in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building with Mayor Lisa Lundberg presiding. Those present were Alderwomen Kelli Bauman and Ramona Drake; Aldermen Jonas Reppe and Harry Mewherter. Absent were Alderwoman Rose Mack and Alderman Rod Pauli. Also present were Finance Officer Mary Korth, City Attorney Todd Boyd, Banner Associates Sara Pankonin and Beth Niemeyer, and First District Representative Alex Kahnke. Present for the Public Hearing: Val Lundquist, Brandon Collins, Elliott Furman, Gilbert Slater, Jack Drake, Wayne Benck, Lisa and Michael Horan, Alida Spilde, Daryl Root, Judy Sapp, Audie Stoltenburg, Carol Olson, Rhonda and Gary Baxter, Jessica Lamfers, Warren Stroschein, Calvin Rans, Jennifer Hills, and Jamie Hintz. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and was then called to order by Mayor Lisa Lundberg.

Motion by Drake, seconded by Reppe to approve the agenda as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There was no one present for public voice on subject matter unrelated to the public hearing.

Mayor Lisa Lundberg opened the public hearing and directed the presentation to begin.

Sara Pankonin of Banner Associates made introductions and began a slide presentation which gave an overview of the facility studies recently completed for the City of Clear Lake.

Pankonin began with the City's water system. 32% of the current water system is cast iron pipe installed in the 1930's and 1940's. 14% of the water system is asbestos cement pipe which is brittle and can pose risks to laborers. Much of the pipes in town are smaller in diameter and not up to today's standards. The City reports an average of 24% water loss in recent years. There is a need for a water main project. City-wide watermain improvements would be at a cost of \$19.3M. Banner has divided the improvements up into phases according to needs. Phase 1A and 1B costs are \$5.53M.

The wastewater system was presented next showing the recent improvements to the collection system were of great value to the City. The wastewater treatment systems are in need of updating due to overloading and State violations. Banner recommended replacing the main lift station at a cost of \$1.7M. In the future, a new treatment system would be needed at a cost of \$7.1M.

A Drainage Study was part of the 2023 Facility Plans for the first time. Maps and information were given also showing drainage improvements for the City. Total cost for overall recommendations for drainage totaled \$12M.

Pankonin stressed the economical advantages of combining these improvements with street/utility projects. SDDOT Highway 15 project is planned for 2030. The City will see significant cost savings in combining projects with the DOT at that time. Phases 1A (northwest storm basin) and 1B (southeast basin) are what is to be considered currently.

First District Alex Kahnke presented possible rate increases to coincide with funding based on loan percentages. Water rates could increase between \$14.00 and \$28.00 per month (per 5k gallons) on a 30 year loan. These are just estimates as the loan rates changed since she obtained numbers. Sewer rates could increase between \$13.00 and \$27.00/month. The State would probably require an increase in rates deemed affordable.

Discussion was held and many questions were answered. There were complaints of high taxes and costs without seeing improvements. There were feelings that any contracted work takes too long. The earliest bidding for any project would likely not be until 2025. Contractors attracted to large scale projects like these are usually equipped for efficient and speedy completion dates. There were also

questions related to curb and gutter and sidewalks. Individual concerns were raised. Pankonin welcomed anyone to stay after the hearing to discuss these issues one on one.

Mayor Lundberg then closed the public hearing.

Motion by Mewherter, seconded by Drake to approve and sign Resolution 2023-6 A Resolution Authorizing An Application For Financial Assistance, Authorizing The Execution And Submittal Of The Application, And Designating An Authorized Representative To Certify And Sign Payment Requests. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Drake, seconded by Reppe to approve and sign Resolution 2023-7 A Resolution Authorizing An Application For Financial Assistance, Authorizing The Execution And Submittal Of The Application, And Designating An Authorized Representative To Certify And Sign Payment Requests. Upon roll call vote, all voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business, motion by Mewherter, seconded by Drake to adjourn at 6:58 PM. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary Korth  
Finance Officer

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