

Minutes of the January 25, 2016 Hampton City Council Budget Workshop Session.

The Council met at 6:00 pm. Members present were, Freie, Davies, Mollenbeck, Pralle and Hickman. Absent; Lukensmeyer. Mayor Boehmler called the workshop to order and the pledge of allegiance was recited. Also present were Police Chief Bob Schaefer, Public Works Director Doug Tarr and City Manager Ron Dunt.

Public comment: Mayor Boehmler expressed an interest in submitting a Community Foundation Grant application to fund a Naturalization Program administered by La Luz Hispania. This will be placed on the January 28, 2016 council agenda for consideration.

Blaine Lenz, First Security Bank presented a request for a 10 minute parking space in the front of the driven in facility. Doug will look into further details of the space available and report back to the council.

Tom Madden was unable to attend to discuss change orders related to the wwtp project. He will reschedule.

Ron reviewed the details of a recent intentional discharge of polluted water from a secondary containment area at Liqui-Grow. City staff reported the spill to the IDNR after noticing bright green water in the culvert and ditch on the west side of Imperial Road. The DNR investigated the incident and determined that the substance was ammonia from a fertilizer originating from Liqui-Grow. The city staffs' main concern are the four drinking water wells in the vicinity. The discharge occurred in the Primary Protection Zone of the Wellhead Protection Area. The DNR has indicated to the City that no contaminated water reached a wellhead but that Liqui-Grow violated Iowa law and Administrative Rules with this incident. The City will take special steps to monitor the wells into the future. Ron expressed his concern of potential future monitoring or abatement measures that may be necessary due to this incident or any prior incidents that may have occurred. Ron also stated that the City is currently reviewing options for enforcement of violations of city ordinances that may have occurred. The City will research potential financial responsibilities of Liqui-Grow for any potential damages they may have caused now or into the future as a result of chemical releases in the area.

Bryan Heilskov, Manager of Liqui-Grow, Twin States addressed the council and requested that for the record, "Chemical spill" should be omitted and instead refer to the incident as a "secondary water release". Bryan went on to say that on December 21, 2015 he received a visit from the IDNR regarding the green water in the ditch. He fully cooperated with the DNR in the investigation and agrees that the discharge was done by an employee of Liqui-Grow without Bryan's consent or knowledge. He stated that in the 38 years they have been in business this is the first incident. They have 4 million gallons of storage of 32% UAN and the secondary containment area is designed to hold 125% of 4 million gallons. He stated the containment area is constructed with a bentonite clay basin. They reclaim all water and product collected throughout the year. Once it was determined that Liqui-Grow was the source of the discharge, Bryan stated that it was a little bit but couldn't have been over 5,000 gallons of the contaminated water. He then had his staff pump out the ditch and flush the area with 11,000 gallons of clean

water. They are putting measures in place to ensure this type of release does not happen again and understands the importance of protecting the wellhead protection zone. Mayor Boehmler asked if he felt it was a procedural problem or employee error he stated that it was an employee error or a lapse in judgment. It would've never happened if Bryan were present on the property that day.

Jay Hickman asked questions regarding how the fertilizer product would react if spilled near the well. Bryan stated it would be soaked up by the first 5 feet of soil. Bryan was confident that they got all of it cleaned up and flushed and offered to do a spring flushing if the DNR requires it or the council desires it.

Ron asked Bryan to explain a couple of spill incidents that are on a spill report from May and July 2015 in which Liqui-Grow submitted water samples to the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab for analysis. The results showed high levels of ammonia at the time. Although they did have a couple of mechanical breakdowns during that time that resulted in leakage of 32% to the containment area, Bryan attributed the higher levels of ammonia readings in the Imperial Road ditch to farm ground runoff from ag land activities in the area. Ron then asked if those two spills related to mechanical failures were reported at that time to the IDNR or the City of Hampton. Bryan stated that they were not reported since the spill material did not leave the property. Dyanne Pralle inquired about continuing DNR monitoring. Bryan again stated that they would be willing to do some spring flushing if the city desired so but the DNR has closed the investigation.

Ron stated that the city may incur some well monitoring expenses due to this incident and asked Bryan if the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan which was implemented in 1992 was made know to the employees of Liqui-Grow. Bryan stated that the employees were familiar with it and he also does annual safety training with employees as recommended by the DNR. In closing Ron made it clear to Bryan that these types of issues cannot continue. Bryan agreed. City staff will work on determining a course of action after researching the matter further, consulting with Liqui-Grow and discussing with city officials.

The council then continued discussions on the FY17 budget. Discussions primarily focused on the funding levels of the library and local agencies. The consensus was that although the council was still gathering information on FCDA activities the council was willing to leave the funding at the current level of \$45,000 with the caveat that the council may withhold budgeted funding if FCDA fails to meet council expectations. The funding of the library was discussed but no consensus was reached. Discussion will continue at the next workshop.

Barry Lamos, 215 3rd St. SE expressed concerns of what the city can do to spur housing growth and other economic development activities.

The Workshop concluded at 7:20 pm.