

**MINUTES**  
**City of New Berlin**  
**Special Utility Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday October 5, 2004**

Members Present: Aldermen Gallagher, Harenda and Ament, Director Grzys and Robert Dude

Others Present: Rick Johnson (Utility Manager), Jim Hart (Utility Supervisor), Steve Schultz (Ruekert & Mielke)

Alderman Gallagher called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and declared a quorum.

**UT 19-04                      Approve agreement with Aquifer Science & Technology for Engineering Service dealing with the Radium Consent Order**

Motion by Alderman Ament to remove item UT 19-04 from the table. Seconded by Commissioner Dude, and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Director Grzys read the requested action to recommend to Council to approve the Engineering agreement for the Radium Consent Order to reconstruct the City of New Berlin Wells #1 and #3 with an amount not to exceed \$100,000. This includes logging of wells, contractor cost and engineering cost. Finance has set up account #107 and this is part of the approved C.I.P. 2004 Budget.

Steve Schultz stated that the radium study down in July 2003 laid out the course of action regarding radionuclide regulations and this is one of the steps that needs to be taken to comply with the radium consent order with the DNR.

Alderman Harenda arrived at 5:07 p.m.

Mr. Schultz added that Wells #1 and #3 were logged previously in the mid 80's, but the equipment used today is much better. He said that the objective of the logging work is to evaluate the options for reducing radium levels by reconstructing the wells to determine if the wells can be relined or rehabbed to reduce or eliminate the radium levels. Mr. Schultz said that some wells in the County have done this and it was his opinion that only a fraction of the water will have to be treated and that would save the City money. He said that plans and specifications will be developed to solicit quotes for service to remove well pumps and to conduct dynamic pumping logs. After a brief discussion about the Great Lakes Governor's meeting and Annex 2005, it was agreed upon by the Committee that this work must be started.

Motion by Alderman Gallagher to recommend to Council to approve the Engineering agreement for the Radium Consent Order to reconstruct the City of New Berlin Wells #1 and #3 with an amount not to exceed \$100,000. This includes logging of wells, contractor cost and engineering cost. Source of funds: Finance has set up account #107 and this is part of the approved C.I.P. 2004 Budget. Seconded by Alderman Ament and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

**Item 18-04                      Approval of 2005 Water and Wastewater Budgets**

Director Grzys reviewed the Water Operating budget revenues and expenses. He noted that when you take out the amount for Milwaukee Water of \$34,050, there is less than a 3% increase in the budget. Commissioner Dude said that he spent 3 ½ hours with Ray Grzys, Rick Johnson and Ralph Chipman and was happy with the 2.96% increase that they achieved despite the negotiated wage increase of 3.7% and the health insurance increase of 10%. He thanked Sue Hanley for the numbering system on the budget.

Alderman Gallagher asked if there was any increase in the energy costs next year for the Milwaukee Water project? Rick Johnson answered that the energy costs, as well as the additional chemical costs were built into the 2005 budget.

Motion by Commissioner Dude to recommend to Council to approve the 2005 Water Utility Operating budget. Seconded by Alderman Harenda and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Director Grzys reviewed the CIP budget and stated that he worked with Steve Schultz in negotiating the

purchase of the City of Milwaukee Water, but now the Utility has to pursue radium compliance. Alderman Gallagher asked if this money will be bonded? Director Grzys responded that he will talk to Mike Holzinger in Finance, and that they will probably be able to delay this until March or April.

Commissioner Dude discussed the consulting fees for the radium compliance work, and said that these should be on a scale since they are working on 3 wells. Alderman Harenda agreed that the Committee would like more details since they are doing the same work to all wells and that like tasks should be able to be combined. Director Grzys noted that each of the wells 1,3,5 and 7 have different depths and that the consultants need to analyze and reconstruct the wells, and if necessary treat the wells.

The Committee discussed the vehicle replacement policy for the City which calls for replacing a vehicle at 7 years or 70,000 miles, and asked Rick Johnson about the 1997 Van that was being replaced that had less than 40,000 miles. Mr. Johnson noted that the cost in the CIP budget was shared with Wastewater Utility, and did not include any discounts or trade-in value. He noted that the Utility was following the City policy, which was passed by Council to replace vehicles after 7 years. Mr. Johnson stated that even though the vehicle had less than 40,000 miles, it had many hours of idling time, primarily done during main breaks to keep the hoses from freezing in the winter.

Alderman Ament agreed that the Committee should follow the policy, although staff should recommend if vehicles should be reassigned, kept or traded. Alderman Ament added that he has experience in his own business with regard to vehicle replacement, and rather than spend money to repair, outsource or add additional mechanics, sometimes it is better to replace the vehicle with a newer more efficient model.

Director Grzys stated that Rick Johnson initiated the installation of hour meters on all of the Utility vehicles, and that new vehicles have these as standard equipment. He added that with the price of gas increasing, vehicles need to be more efficient.

Motion by Alderman Ament to recommend to Council to approve the 2005 Water Utility C.I.P. Budget. Seconded by Alderman Harenda and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM 18-04                      Approval of Wastewater Utility 2005 Budget and CIP**

Director Grzys presented the proposed operating budget and noted that there are two charges that we have no control over; the MMSD capital charge increased \$1.533 million and the MMSD disposal charge increased \$50,000. He stated that despite these charges, the overall budget increased just 1.88% and he complimented staff. Commissioner Dude also complimented staff on keeping rates consistent despite the uncontrollable MMSD charges.

Motion by Commissioner Dude to recommend to Council to approve the 2005 Wastewater Utility Operating budget. Seconded by Alderman Ament and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Director Grzys presented the Wastewater CIP budget. It was noted by Director Grzys that the Parkland Green sewer line replacement or reline was not debatable and that without repair, this sewer could collapse or backup. He stated that we can use this information as part of our work to reduce I & I and show MMSD our progress.

Alderman Ament stated that it seems that the City of New Berlin has been doing our share and then some, and that we just get a kick in the teeth by the state. He further stated that MMSD finally admitted they were wrong, but the state is saying that all communities will receive the same fine. The Utility discussed the cost benefit of spending money on I & I.

Alderman Ament thanked Ray Grzys, Rick Johnson, Sue Hanley and Robert Dude for doing the day-to-day grunt work on the budget. He stated that their work sometimes gets passed over, but they put in a lot of time crunching the numbers and researching items.

Motion by Alderman Ament to recommend to Council to approve the 2005 Wastewater Utility C.I.P. Budget. Seconded by Commissioner Dude and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Alderman Ament at 6:44 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Dude and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.