

A Work Session of the City Council of the City of Litchfield was held in the City Council Chambers at the City Hall on Monday, June 5, 2023, commencing at 4:15 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor	Ron Dingmann	Present
Council Member-at-Large	Malinda Larson	Absent
Council Member Ward I	Eric Mathwig	Present
Council Member Ward II	Darlene Kotelnicki	Present
Council Member Ward III	Betty Allen	Present
Council Member Ward IV	John Carlson	Absent
Council Member Ward V	Sara Miller	Absent
City Administrator	Dave Cziok	Present
Assistant City Administrator	Joyce Spreiter	Present
Operations Engineer	Mike Geers	Present
City Engineer	Chuck DeWolf	Present

I. WASTEWATER FACILITY PLANNING –

A. WASTEWATER FACILITY PLANNING UPDATE –

Environmental Engineer Paul Saffert provided a report regarding ongoing wastewater facility planning. He explained that wastewater is defined by volume and strength going into more detail about parameters. He outlined project needs including existing facility maintenance needs, the deferred biosolids project, and addressing more stringent permit limits.

Council Member Kotelnicki inquired about biosolids drying with Environmental Engineer Saffert explaining the process. He shared that the material is surface applied with storage volume significantly reduced. Environmental Engineer Saffert clarified Council Member Allen’s inquiry that the City does not currently sell the sludge. City Administrator Cziok shared that the nitrogen is favorable to farmers however the downside is holding off on planting to receive the sludge.

Council Member Kotelnicki inquired about availability of grants with Environmental Engineer Saffert providing the grants that the City is pursuing. No formal action was taken.

B. FDA PRETREATMENT PLANNING –

Gary Lee, Engineer, and owner of Lee Engineering, addressed the Council on behalf of First District Association (FDA). He shared that his company specializes in high strength industrial waste. He reported that Lee Engineering was retained by FDA 30 days ago to commence design for a pretreatment facility in order to take pressure off the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Lee shared that the two sites identified for a pretreatment facility include just north of the FDA campus and the railroad tracks, adjacent to the City’s lift station, and the other site located southeast of the existing wastewater treatment plant.

FDA Engineer Lee shared that there would be energy produced. He stated that the project qualifies for the Inflation Reduction Act. There is a Federal Investment Tax Credit available which requires renewable electricity which needs to be consumed. Lee shared that they are waiting for a response from SMMPA, one of the electric suppliers to the City, to see if they would consider purchasing the power generated back. He discussed the project timeline and the benefits.

Mayor Dingmann inquired about funneling the energy produced back to FDA in which FDA Engineer Lee responded it is a possibility depending on if SMMPA is able to partner with FDA. Mayor Dingmann asked about the City purchasing the power. FDA Engineer Lee and City staff responded that the City has a contract with SMMPA that most likely doesn’t allow. No formal action was taken.

C. COUNCIL QUESTION AND ANSWER –

Mayor Dingmann inquired as to the advantages and disadvantages of the locations of the pretreatment facility for FDA. FDA Engineer Lee shared that an advantage to FDA with building on the FDA campus includes generating energy that can be used at their campus. He said disadvantages are the site is small and odor control.

FDA Engineer Lee answered the inquiry from Council Member Kotelnicki that FDA doesn't own land out by the wastewater treatment facility and at this point is unsure if they would buy or lease. City Administrator Cziok discussed localizing all the wastewater services at or near the current wastewater treatment facility could be accommodated adding the City could do a low cost sale or lease to FDA. State Representative Dean Urdahl reported a \$5M grant was awarded to assist FDA with addressing wastewater issues, in addition to other potential funding available such as through PFA.

City Administrator Cziok discussed the need to finalize the project. City Engineer DeWolf shared that the facility plan submitted would need to be amended based on any changes from the results of FDA's finalizing their pretreatment decisions. No formal action was taken.

II. ADJOURNMENT –

The Work Session adjourned at 5:07 p.m. by unanimous consent.