

CITY OF HARLINGEN WATERWORKS SYSTEM
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 26, 2024

The Regular Board Meeting of the Utility Board of Trustees was conducted on the 26th day of February 2024 at 5:00 P.M. at 134 E Van Buren, Harlingen, Texas 2nd Floor.

Board Members Present: Chris Bartnesky, Chairman
Michael Garza, Vice Chairman
Michael Murphy, Trustee
Steve Brewer, Trustee

Staff Present: Tim Skoglund, General Manager
David Sanchez, Director of Water Services
Ron De La Garza, Director of Finances
Florita Rodriguez, Customer Service Director
Michael Chamberlain, Purchasing Manager
Jose L. Rodriguez, Director of Information Technology
Elizabeth Soto, Director of Human Resources
Gabriel Trevino, Utility Engineer
Joseph Lunn, Assistant Utility Engineer

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: OPEN MEETING AND WELCOME

Chris Bartnesky, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:01P.M. and asked whether the agenda had been posted in accordance with the law; Nilda Sanchez responded affirmatively.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Bartnesky read the conflict-of-interest disclosure and asked the Board if anyone had any known conflicts of interest for this Board Meeting. None of the trustees reported a conflict of interest.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: COMMUNICATION / INPUT FROM CUSTOMERS AND RESIDENTS OF HARLINGEN

None.

OUT OF SEQUENCE:

In consideration of scheduled time, the consultant was asked to present their report: to the Board.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) **Presentation on Constructability and Cost Assessment for Wastewater Master Plan Interceptor System Alternatives**

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A presentation by Halff Associates, Kristina Leal and Mark Cantu explaining the scope of the Master Plan constructability cost estimate for 2 major Capital Improvement Packages was presented.

Mr. Cantu reported on the principal project, including minor upgrades in the Little Creek area. This option would decommission 3 lift stations. A plus for this option would include an interception of about four to five miles in the southeast section of the area.

Mr. Cantu explained the information using the Little Creek interceptor upgrades. There are larger and deeper pipes in the area. Six lift stations would be decommissioned. The area covered was about three and a half miles in diameter. Little Creek Interceptor would go through the landfill and re-routed to the north of the area.

An explanation of the two projects was discussed. The principal plan included 13 projects totaling 123 million dollars. Using the Little Creek Interceptor, the cost was 127 million dollars also including 13 projects; however, this could be the better option for this project due to the larger in deeper sewer lines, it was shorter in length and less infrastructure in the area.

Ms. Leal explained there were many factors of unforeseen price increases with supply chain issues and rising costs of materials. Halff Associates hired engineering companies to help with assessing the area in the attempt to get real prices for the project. MEG Engineering performed 28 bores on different easements with depths of 25 to 40 feet to analyze the area. Two more engineering contractors were also hired to help with cost estimates.

Subsurface findings proved to encounter some sand in three of the bores, underground water was found, and it was reported it got shallower traveling east of the area. Other noted challenges were leaking canals that were not too deep with huge embankments and many line crossings in the right of ways.

Providing Halff's geotechnical report, two contractors were contacted and given the report for their evaluation. The companies were Garney and ST Louis.

In conclusion, Mr. Cantu explained preliminary costs of the Principal Plan were 123 million. The approximate plan included the main trunk line at a cost of 31 million with a total of 13 projects within the project.

The Little Creek alternative plan accounted for the same costs as the Principal Plan: including the price for engineering, environmental, full survey line acquisition and all property ID's, construction costs and interest fees. The main trunk line was 44 million dollars which was the main part of the project.

Mr. Skoglund explained the demolition of lift station No. 73 could be rerouted at the force main with a savings of about 3 million dollars. It was a conversation to be discussed with

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Half Associates and plan the idea. Ms. Leal explained it could be a decision that would be well under the margin of error and could plan out well.

Mr. Skoglund informed the Board there were EDAP and Clean Water Funds coming available in October or November. He explained he would like to set up contracts to get started on the alternative design and present those at the next Board Meeting. Discussion by the Board ensued.

OUT OF SEQUENCE:

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Board Meeting of February 1, 2024.

With no corrections requested, a motion to approve the Board Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of February 1, 2024, was made.

Motion: Michael Garza
Second: Michael Murphy

Motion to approve was carried by a vote of the Board (4-0).

OUT OF SEQUENCE:

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chris Bartnesky reported it was time to elect a vice-chairman to the Board. The Board had been operating without a Vice-Chairman since November of 2023. Enrique Del Angel, former trustee, resigned his position before the end of his assignment. Steve Brewer nominated Michael Garza as the next Vice-Chairman to the Board.

Motion: Steve Brewer
Second: Michael Murphy

b) Report on delinquent accounts exceeding \$500.

Florita J. Rodriguez gave an overview of the delinquent accounts that were currently pending. Discussion by the Board ensued.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: FINANCIALS

a) Monthly Financial report for month ending January 31, 2024.

Ron De La Garza gave an overview of the financial reports for January 31, 2024. Discussion by the Board ensued.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: RESOLUTIONS

a) R2324-23: Approving a Utility Cost Sharing agreement with Choice Land Development LLC for Oversizing Off-Site Water Improvements for Allision Subdivision.

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Mr. Skoglund reported the contractor wanted to extend a 16-inch water line instead of the required 8-inch line to Allision Subdivision. Oversizing lines of this request were budgeted in one of our line items for the purpose of upgrading water lines. Discussion by the Board ensued.

A motion was made to approve Resolution No. R2324-23 – approving a Utility Cost Sharing agreement with Choice Land Development LLC for Oversizing Off-Site Water Improvements for Allision Subdivision.

Motion: Michael Murphy
Second: Michael Garza

Motion to approve was carried by a vote of the Board (4-0).

b) R2324-21: Approving purchase of a ¾ Ton Pickup Truck.

Mr. Skoglund reported many problems with a lot of new ½ ton trucks that had recently been purchased. The need for a heavy-duty truck was necessary to avoid motor and transmission issues as this departmental truck did a lot of towing. Discussion by the Board ensued.

A motion was made to approve Resolution No. R2324:24 – approving purchase of a ¾ Ton Pickup Truck.

Motion: Michael Garza
Second: Steve Brewer

Motion to approve was carried by a vote of the Board (4-0).

***** Chairman Bartnesky reported a time crunch in the agenda, Manager's Reports would be skipped this month and Executive would be brought back at next month's Board Meeting, March 27, 2024.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: MANAGER'S REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: EXECUTIVE SESSION

(1) Deliberation on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee; pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §551.074.

Chairman Bartnesky recommended that the Executive Session item be rescheduled to the next month's Board Meeting in consideration of time constraints.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman, Bartnesky, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 P.M.

Motion: Steve Brewer
Second: Michael Garza

Motion to approve was carried by a vote of the Board (4-0).

Attest:



Nilda Sanchez, Board Secretary