

BELTON CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 9, 2013 – 4:30 P.M.

The Belton City Council met in work session in the Smith Room of the Harris Community Center, with the following members present: Mayor Jim Covington, Mayor Pro Tem Marion Grayson, Councilmembers David K. Leigh, Wayne Carpenter, Craig Pearson, John Agan, and Frank Minosky. There were no members absent. Staff present were John Messer, Sam Listi, Connie Torres, Cristy Daniell, Mike Huber, Paul Romer, and Aaron Harris.

The Mayor called the workshop to order at 4:30 p.m.

Conduct work session and receive presentation from Jerry Atkinson, General Manager, Bell County Water Control Improvement District No.1, regarding Belton's participation in a water plant proposed on Stillhouse Hollow Lake.

The City Manager introduced Jerry Atkinson, General Manager of Bell County WCID No. 1, who presented the District's proposal to build an approximately 20 MGD (million gallons per day) water plant on Stillhouse Hollow Lake. The water plant would supplement the District's Lake Belton plant that cannot be expanded further. The District is in discussions with all of their customers to determine who wants to participate in the new plant. His presentation showed a potential Belton participation of 2 MGD, but the actual amount could vary depending on what level Belton chooses, if any. The project will provide new treatment capacity, and is not an increase in water rights. Mr. Atkinson reviewed the City's current water treatment capacity and annual water usage; reasons why a treatment plant should be built now; why the current plant on Lake Belton cannot be expanded; and why a plant should be built on Stillhouse Hollow Lake. He showed schematics of the proposed plant site on Stillhouse Hollow Lake and associated construction and treatment costs.

Councilmember Leigh suggested the cost burden should shift to those who are using more than their percentage of treatment capacity. Mr. Atkinson indicated that none of their customers have exceeded their treatment capacity, and that the plant will be built and paid for based on the capacity chosen by each customer. The Mayor commented he believes the other cities that need more should have to pay more. The City Attorney agreed, stating though Belton might want to be a part of the plan, he doesn't believe Belton should pay the same as Killeen if they need it now and Belton won't need the water for another 10 years.

Councilmember Leigh asked about the impact building more capacity on Stillhouse Lake would have on conservation policies and management levels of lake capacity/utilization. Mr. Atkinson indicated both lakes will be impacted. They are meeting with the Brazos River Authority (BRA) who manages those reservoirs, and the BRA will have to develop a management plan.

The Mayor stated the cost associated with getting water to Belton from a new plant is the problem. Mr. Atkinson explained the proposed tract on Stillhouse Hollow Lake is the only available land they were able to find to build a water treatment facility.

Ginger Tolbert, KPA Engineers, presented information regarding water demand projections and the pros and cons of participation with BCWCID based on Belton's 2008 Water System Master Plan and likely future growth areas. She indicated the City needs to separate the need for treatment capacity and quantify it, and determine from which plant it is best for the City to take treated water. She explained the Master Plan assumed all of Belton's water would come from Belton Lake. Pipelines could still be built to address water demand, and additional storage tanks could be built to provide opportunities to shave a little bit off the peak demand, minimizing future demand somewhat.

Ms. Tolbert discussed the City's water rights (the City owns enough raw water to carry it through 2060 projections) and water demand projections vs. treatment capacity of 10 MGD. She explained all of the City's infrastructure (water plant, pump stations, transmission main) is based on max day flow, which will come into play with treatment plant capacity. Councilmember Pearson asked if other entities are taking appreciable

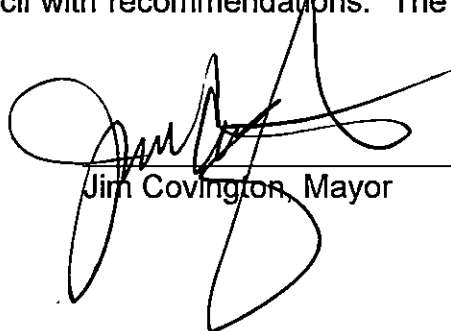
amounts of water from the City's 21" pipeline, and Ms. Tolbert indicated there are other entities taking water, but she would not quantify it as appreciable. Councilmember Leigh asked if the City can reclaim its line, as it gets close to maximum transmission capacity, and Ms. Tolbert indicated she did not know.

Ms. Tolbert stated the City is being asked to pay for expansion today, but if it's needed five years from now, that would correspond to the time frame needed for construction. The Mayor commented additional distribution lines will be necessary regardless, whether water comes from Lake Belton or Lake Stillhouse Hollow. Ms. Tolbert stated rough estimates to construct approximately eight miles of 18" pipeline from the proposed plant on Lake Stillhouse to the existing 14" line that crosses the Lampasas River (at IH-35) in order to serve demand in the year 2030 range, would cost about \$6.0M. She indicated infrastructure could be built from the north and phased in.

Following discussion regarding drought conditions and water use/capacity and management of these items, Councilmember Agan stated he thinks the City's long-term, population projection is key, but the last thing the City wants in a normal, non-drought cycle, is to lack water capacity and have to ration water because population needs have maxed the City out. Councilmember Leigh stated he thinks the City needs to look at handling a storage delivery problem for peak days (which are only 8-10 days/per year), as opposed to increasing the plant capacity and potentially spending \$12-15M for problems that may only occur two weeks per year.

The City Attorney asked about BCWCID's deadline, and Mr. Atkinson stated they wanted a commitment by the end of April, but a decision by the City by the end of May would be acceptable. He stated nearly all entities have indicated they would participate thus far: Copperas Cove (3 MGD), Harker Heights (2 MGD), Killeen (10 or 12 MGD), 439 WSC (1.5 MGD), WCID No. 3 (.5 MGD), with no decision from Fort Hood at this point.

The City Manager indicated he would work with Mr. Atkinson and City staff/KPA Engineers, and return to the Council with recommendations. The Mayor adjourned the work session at 5:23 p.m.



Jim Covington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Connie Torres, City Clerk