

MINUTES
SHERWOOD WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE

June 7, 2022

ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Authorized Richard Penn to request payment assistance from the City Council on an invoice from NLRWWU for \$224,000 related to emergency repair under Hwy 67/167.
2. Received a report on the department's review of the effect of the NLRWWU 10-year plan on Sherwood WWU.
3. Received an update on continuing efforts to determine the effect of the Gravel Ridge SID Operation on Sherwood WWU Planning.

The Sherwood Wastewater Treatment Committee met on June 7, 2022. Chair Amy Sanders called the meeting to order. Present were Chair Amy Sanders and members Eric Fleming and Sarah Breshears; Kevin Lilly and Suzanne Stair were absent. Also present were City Engineer Richard Penn, engineer Jesse Morrison, Wastewater Manager Scott Greenwood, and Dennis Webb from the Utility. Attorney Larry Carpenter was also present.

Sarah Breshears moved, seconded by Eric Fleming to approve the Minutes of the April meeting. This passed. The May meeting did not have a quorum and no Minutes were kept.

Scott Greenwood distributed the Operations Reports for both March and April. There was nothing unusual in either report. Chair Sanders requested that he send copies of both to Kevin Lilly and Suzanne Stair.

The Committee received an update on items of Old Business. There was nothing new to report on the South Plant closure. The staff is keeping an eye on 5MC treatment charges. There were some credits that carried over from the past year. Richard does not yet know of plans by NLRWWU to increase charges in connection with its 10-year plan but does expect an increase. Different treatment areas will have a timetable that will affect the treatment charges.

Richard reported that the emergency repair to the line under 67/167 is under way. Sherwood WWU has received an invoice for \$224,000 as its share. The funds in the Sales Tax account have been committed for the 18-19 projects for smaller 8" and 10" lines which will complete the work necessary to satisfy the 2016 CAO; this is projected to cost most of the \$951,000 remaining in that account.

The emergency repair at 67/167 involves a 30" pipe. Richard said about \$3 million in federal funds for water and wastewater projects had been released to Sherwood. The City Council had not yet committed these funds and Richard would like to ask for a commitment to pay for the emergency repair. Sarah Breshears asked how this related to the 10-year plan. Richard said the line being repaired is part of the plan but the repair is necessary anyway. Sherwood needs to help in this because of the necessity of the system to Sherwood's development.

Sarah Breshear moved, seconded by Eric Fleming to authorize Richard to present a request to the City Council for funding to pay the invoice for the 67/167 line repair. This passed 3-0.

Richard next reported on a meeting he and Larry Carpenter had with Josh Alexander, the Sherwood Development Officer, to discuss the growth of the system in the northern areas of the City. He also mentioned that he is going to pursue a rate study to determine what may be necessary to help with growth. There is a need to determine the nature and cost of growth areas, especially when considering the NLR plan. Richard believes there is benefit to growth being headed by Sherwood rather than North Little Rock or Gravel Ridge, especially to commercial interests.

The Gravel Ridge plant has not yet been commissioned. Until then it is unclear whether Gravel Ridge can serve new development. Richard believes the customer rates may continue to rise. In April Gravel Ridge customers had a \$25.48 minimum monthly rate, but in May it was closer to \$51.78. There are about 1400 customers in the system.

Richard discussed various funding and grant possibilities, some of which are open to cities and counties but not to SIDs. He believes Gravel Ridge will have to work on its collection system and noted that Runyan Acres worked that part first. Sherwood WWU as a city is eligible for a grant from these funds but so far Gravel Ridge has declined an invitation to work jointly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be at noon on July 5, 2022, at the Harmon Center.

Amy Sanders
Chair

7-5-22
Date