

ITEM NO. S

**CITY COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, IN COUNCIL,
ASSEMBLED YOUR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE to Whom
was Referred a POLICY/WORKSHOP SESSION Regarding a
PRESENTATION of STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE
and DISCUSSION of POLICY SESSIONS and PRIORITIES.**

A Policy/Workshop Session was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2004, in the Council Chambers, Room 400, City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Pro Tem Marcella Teplitz presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members Present: Ardis, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Pro Tem Teplitz – 9; Absent: Grayeb, Mayor Ransburg – 2.

Others present: City Manager Randy Oliver, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray, Assistant City Manager Alan Pennington, City Engineer Gene Hewitt, Civil Engineer Jane Gerdes, Greg Kazcivinsky, P.E. Senior Staff Engineer representing Clark Dietz, City Clerk Mary Haynes, Joan Schaumburg of the City Clerk's Office, interested citizens and members of the media.

PRESENTATION of STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

City Manager Randy Oliver explained that the stormwater needs of the community was a priority Item identified at the public district meetings. He said the two major issues involved were the Federal regulations listed under the Clean Water Act and the excess accumulation of water, which created water quality issues in various areas within the City. He said the presentations would focus on a master plan dealing with a more comprehensive approach in evaluating stormwater management in problem areas.

City Engineer Hewitt introduced Mr. Greg Kazcivinsky from Clark Dietz who would provide an update on two major identified projects, and Civil Engineer Jane Gerdes from the Public Works Department who would explain the permits and requirements mandated by the NPDES.

Civil Engineer Jane Gerdes explained that stormwater consisted of rain and snowmelt and not sanitary sewage or industrial waste. She said the Federal and State EPA had mandated that communities with a population in excess of 10,000 in an urbanized area were required to enter into a five-year plan to reduce stormwater pollution, which consisted of trash, litter, road grit, oil from vehicles, and chemicals, which eventually flowed into the Illinois River. She said silt was the major pollutant that spilled over into City creeks, and the most common areas that produced silt were construction site run-offs. She said the City had adopted an Ordinance controlling erosion created by construction sites to help maintain silt run-off from entering the creeks.

Ms. Gerdes further explained the City was currently 1-1/2 years into the five-year permit cycle and had not completed as many tasks as they had planned. She said the problems were being addressed on a single basis as a result of the decrease in the level of staff and available funds. She stated the first phase of regulations would end in 2008 and the EPA had advised the communities that they would add an additional five years and would monitor the water quality and amount of pollutants allowed in the stormwater.

Ms. Gerdes stated that the City complied with NPDES mandates that all communities practice good housekeeping, which included sweeping the streets and regulating erosion control on construction sites. She said the City also enforced a program that addressed the quantity of water that runs off from new development sites.

Ms. Gerdes explained another component of the Federal Mandates required public education. She said the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission had produced a movie video regarding suggestions for homeowners to assist in the efforts to better manage storm water and preserve the Illinois River and Lakes for the future. The video depicted how excess rainwater caused erosion and attracted various harmful pollutants, which entered into creeks and eventually into the rivers and lakes. The video further explained the research and plans that had been developed by City Engineers to assist in the enormous quantity of silt, that was largely caused by erosion, that was being deposited in the Illinois River. The video explained that local government agencies needed to comply with certain EPA regulations mandated by the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) regulations, within five years, beginning in 2003. Some of the regulations included the creation of public outreach and education on the impact of storm water detection and elimination of illegal waste dumping; enforcement of an ordinance to control the stormwater runoff from construction sites and prevention of pollution through good housekeeping tactics. In conclusion, the video suggested various steps for citizens to utilize in assisting with the maintenance of good water quality.

City Manager Oliver stated for Council's information, the stream buffer ordinance was being presented to the Planning Commission on December 15, 2004, and the City's proposal was included in the City Manager's Issues Update and would be brought before the Council in January, 2005.

Mr. Greg Kazcivinsky explained the first phase of the stormwater master plan included interviews with City staff, and reviewing complaint records and compiling maps to identify the areas where stormwater problems existed within the City. He said his presentation included an update of the next phase of the stormwater master plan by looking more thoroughly into specific problems and finding solutions for these problems.

Mr. Kazcivinsky explained the three topics of his presentation included Early Action Projects and recommendations for these projects, an update on the current status regarding Growth Cell 3, and discussion pertaining to the stormwater budget, as well as addressing the NPDES regulations and outlining Capital Improvement recommendations.

Mr. Kazcivinsky said he had met with City staff, landowners, and developers regarding what impact development would have in Growth Cell 3 with regard to Fargo Run Creek, which was the main drainage channel in that area. He said the stream buffer ordinance would address the need to construct home sites further away from the channel. He said they would also explore the regional detention options and the current City detention ordinance regarding future development in Growth Cell 3.

Mr. Kazcivinsky stated that in Phase 1, five early action projects were identified. He said the second contract would focus on two areas that had the highest concentration of problem complaints, which were Holly Hedges/Devereux and the areas from McClure to Nebraska.

Mr. Kazcivinsky said the Holly Hedges/Devereux area would be in the Early Action Project 1 Phase. He said this area was noted as the most critical due to the amount of stream bank erosion that threatened homeowners properties. He said the channel through these areas was eight feet deep as a result of upstream development, and the absence of detention ponds in most of these areas allowed more stormwater to drain into the channel.

Mr. Kazcivinsky discussed several solutions proposed for Holly Hedges which included channel maintenance, channel realignment and channel armoring, which would reduce the slope and slow down the water flow. He further added that construction of a stormwater detention upstream of University would reduce water flow and be a major step in resolving the problems in that area.

In conclusion regarding the Holly Hedges/Devereux Project, Mr. Kazcivinsky said meetings would be scheduled with residents in the area to discuss the proposed resolutions and alternative resolutions to help protect the channel. He said the residents should be educated regarding the need for easements, and their comments and input would be reflected in the presentation of the 2005 Final Design for Project 1.

Mr. Kazcivinsky explained that the channel between McClure and Nebraska, which was in Phase Early Action Project 4, was larger and had different problems, but they were also serious. He said homes were built directly on the channel, and retaining walls were constructed for support. He said these walls were deteriorating which was creating problems that needed to be resolved. Instead of being one continuous improvement area, he said there would be more spot solutions where different improvement would be needed at various points. He said examples of spot solutions would be channel relocation at Hampton Court and the flow capacity at McClure Avenue bridge needed improvement to prevent flood damage upstream of that bridge.

Mr. Kazcivinsky summarized the costs involved with these two projects. He said Early Action Project 1 improvements would cost approximately \$1.4 million in year one, with an additional \$350,000 for other areas needing routine channel maintenance. He continued that in year two of the project, Early Action Project 4 would begin, with a cost of \$1.5 million, and again routine channel maintenance would be continued throughout the City with an additional cost of \$360,000. He said in years three through five, additional early action projects would be addressed at a cost of \$1.5 million per year, with routine channel maintenance expenses of \$400,000 per year. He said in summarizing the capital improvement needs, the total cost would amount to \$1.6 to \$1.8 million per year to address identified problem areas in addition to providing preventative maintenance for the channels.

Mr. Kazcivinsky concluded his presentation with an explanation of a five-year budget overview spreadsheet that encompassed what amount of funding the City would need for existing and future programs; NPDES costs; operations/maintenance cost, which included fleet vehicles, equipment and supplies; and Capital Improvements regarding channel maintenance of Early Action Projects.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that in past years, funding had been budgeted to resolve problems in the McClure/Nebraska area, which was now referred to as Early Action Project 4, but those improvements were never completed. He questioned why improvements for a newer area would precede resolving problems in an older area that had been in existence for twenty-five years.

In answer to Council Member Gulley, City Manager Randy Oliver said the center of the creek was the dividing line between two property owners. Mr. Oliver explained the best solution in regarding easements was to conduct a survey to identify various approaches to address both property owners' needs, and then have the neighbors work together to solve problems in the best interest of their neighborhood.

Council Member Gulley suggested adding the area including Antoinette and Folkers to the list of problem areas that needed to be identified.

City Manager Oliver noted in 2005, the City budgeted \$250,000 in capital improvements for storm water issues, and he said this amount was less than what Clark Dietz had recommended to resolve the stormwater problems. He added, there was an overall capital budget totaling approximately \$10 million, and the early action projects were not included as part of the City's capital budget process.

In response to Council Member Thetford, Engineer Gene Hewitt stated other areas identified as having storm water problems included the Edgewild, Forrest Hill, Knoxville Avenue, and an area near Peoria Heights.

In discussion with City Manager Oliver, Mayor Pro Tem Teplitz determined that the City would be receiving a \$500,000 government funded planning type grant in the near future, but the City needed to continue their efforts to provide for stormwater maintenance and remain in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act.

In response to Council Member Spears, City Manager Oliver said the City did have an existing five-year capital budget, and he further explained that the City had budgeted \$250,000 for stormwater projects in 2005, as they had done in previous years. He said when the City prepared the 2005 budget, they did not have the recommendations by Clark Dietz to address the early action projects. He said if it was the wish of the Council, the Administration could place this in the priorities list for capital money along with the \$10 million of capital projects the City does annually.

Council Member Spears expressed concern that Staff's recommendation for stormwater improvements for the early action projects immediately followed the approval of the City's five-year capital budget when there was no funding available for the programs.

Council Member Spears further stated people had been aware of this project for some time, and he said he felt the City should have lobbied Congress and the Senate for additional grant money to fund the project.

In discussion with Council Member Morris, City Manager Oliver explained the two purposes of easements. He said the construction easement was necessary to allow the workers to access private property to perform their jobs. He continued, the second easement was called a maintenance easement, which allowed for the removal of debris from the stream. City Manager Oliver said there very few construction or maintenance easements in the City at the present time to allow work to be completed. He said he felt the Stream Buffer Ordinance would help address these issues.

In response to Council Member Morris, Mr. Kazcivinsky proposed a detention pond needed to be created in a wooded area on the East Side of University, which would slow down the flow of water through the Holly Hedges/Devereux channel.

Mayor Pro Tem Teplitz thanked Mr. Kazcivinsky, City Engineer Hewitt and Civil Engineer Gerdes for their presentations.

Council Member Morris moved to allow public input from citizens who wished to address the Council regarding this issue; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Pro Tem Teplitz – 9;

Nays: None.

Mr. Tom Edwards, 2702 N. Peoria Avenue, said he felt the City could decrease the cost of future stormwater problems in further growth cell developments by adopting and enforcing proper subdivision and stormwater drainage ordinances. He said he felt the current stream buffer ordinance the City was proposing that would mandate new home site be constructed thirty-feet back from streams was inadequate, and he said the construction of proper stormwater retention basins would greatly enhance the stream buffer ordinance. He said he felt the City could make water more of an asset for the community rather than a liability.

DISCUSSION OF POLICY SESSIONS AND PRIORITIES

City Manager Randy Oliver stated he would like to receive input from the Council regarding the list of Policy Session topics for 2005 that had been distributed to the Council in their Agenda packet. He said the purpose of Policy Sessions was to provide information and identify changes the Council wished to address regarding change of format and issues of priority.

Council Member Gulley suggested that budget discussions begin earlier in 2005. He requested that the Council consider holding a budget policy session type of format in order to discuss issues and the amount of funding required. He further suggested having quarterly budget meetings to update the Council on specific issues and concerns.

City Manager Oliver said if it was the will of the Council, he would concur with Council Member Gulley's suggestions. He said he had also requested Finance Director Jim Scroggins submit a budget calendar to the Council in January, 2005, designating specific dates for budget hearings and policy sessions regarding the budget.

Council Member Nichting said he felt some of the topics listed had already been discussed and he inquired if Staff could identify which topics already had proposed policy session dates and which topics needed to be scheduled.

Council Member Thetford suggested that each Council Member identify ten priority topics and submit them to the City Manager.

Further discussion was held by several Council Members regarding topics for Policy Sessions, and what their priorities were.

Council Member Nichting said he felt the Council should be made aware which Policy Sessions needed direction and which Sessions were being mandated.

Council Member Ardis suggested the Council limited their priority list for Policy Sessions to five and allow the City Manager to then determine the top five from the consensus. He said the issues could then be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

In response to Council Member Gulley, City Manager Oliver suggested each Council Member submit a list of their five priority topics to him by Thursday. He said these lists would be included in the Agenda Packet for December 21, 2004., so the Council could review each list and determine the final top five priorities.

Council Member Nichting moved to close the Policy/Workshop Session regarding the Presentation of Stormwater Management Update and Discussion of Policy Sessions and Priorities; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Pro Tem Teplitz – 9;

Nays: None.

The Policy/Workshop Session closed at 8:15 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Nichting moved to adjourn the Policy/Workshop Session regarding the Presentation of Stormwater Management Update and Discussion of Policy Sessions and Priorities; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Policy/Workshop Session adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Mary L. Haynes, MMC
City Clerk, Peoria, IL

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