

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 26, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Williams called the meeting to order at 9:48am in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Gary Williams, City Councilors Mike Fleck, Jeff Gowing, Thomas Munroe, Heather Murphy, and Diane Conrad

COUNCIL ABSENT: Wayne Clark (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Richard Meyers, Finance Director Bert McClintock, Public Works Director Jan Wellman, Planning Technician Jessica Taylor, City Engineer Ron Bradsby, Community Services Director Pete Barrell (10am), City Recorder Trudy Borrevik

MEDIA PRESENT: Jon Stinnett, The Cottage Grove Sentinel

City Engineer, Ron Bradsby provided background to Council. He said the City had 30.45 miles of storm drain line, 600+ catch basins and during the utility study it was noted that the City should be funding 2.17 full time employees (FTE), but currently there were only 1.5 FTEs budgeted. He said storm drain was a little unique because it can be conservative or under conservative. He provided several definitions to assist Council in understanding what had been done in the Master Plan. The definition of a design storm was a storm whose magnitude rate of intensity did not exceed the design load for the storm drainage system or flood protection project. When they talked about storm drainage, they designed the system to meet a certain storm. There were 2 year, 5 year, 10 year, 25 year, 50 year and 100 year storms. A ten year storm was defined by definition as a 10% probability of being exceeded in any one year or 90% probability of not being exceeded. The probability that a ten year design storm not being exceeded in any ten year period was reduced to 35%. The City of Cottage Grove since the 1985 Master Plan was designed for a ten year storm, that was direction the Council had taken in years past.

Councilor Murphy said she didn't understand exactly what Council had decided.

Ron said that the City had designed for a ten year storm. If there were a storm that was classified as a twenty-five year or larger storm, there would be flooding.

Richard said a ten year storm occurred more regularly.

Mayor Williams asked how often there was a hundred year storm.

Ron said there were two back to back in the 1990s, one in 1995 and one in 1996.

Discussion was held about hundred year floods.

Ron said the projects listed were taken from the 2007 Master Plan and were rated. The consultant did a matrix and public safety was given 20%, protection of property 20%, water quality enhancement 20%, implementation/public perception 20%, open space/recreation 10%, and wetlands/environmental concerns 10%. Based on the matrix the consultants were able to rate the storms such as low, medium or high importance. What was unique about the spread sheet was that he had given them coloring, for example the first project #1, was green and showed that there was a sewer project within the same limits so they should try to do those two projects together. Project #6 had a blue box showing there was a waterline that needed to be replaced at the same time. He tried to package those types of projects together so he had to say that if you looked at the ratings of every one of the projects they were probably not 1-2-3-4 as far as priority.

Councilor Fleck asked where it went through the area where he lived, Dublin Court down to Quincy, if there was a sanitary sewer line as well as storm that ran across the properties.

Richard said the green on the map was showing where the projects were and in his area it was listed as #18 on the project list.

Ron said the markings on the map should be storm drainage.

Councilor Munroe asked if he understood that #7, South 6th Street, would not be done until 2018.

Ron said yes that was correct. He said to remember the document was a draft CIP list, there was nothing that said the projects couldn't be shuffled up or down. In 2018, the City not only had to budget storm drain but also needed to budget sanitary sewer one time only.

Councilor Munroe said the City had already discussed 6th Street and the need for it to be rebuilt so you were taking about a very large project at that time.

Mayor Williams said South 6th was deteriorating quickly and we are still 8 years out on it and it did need a complete reconstruction. He asked Richard about several projects on the list last year for the United Front, the City put in a request to DeFazio's office and others and what the status was on the requests.

Richard said he didn't believe they got added as an appropriation.

Mayor Williams asked if they stayed in an active area and how did it work back in Washington D.C.

Richard said if they get put into an appropriation bill that started moving through, they would actually still be alive if the bill was still there and moving through the process.

Mayor Williams said it was something that should be looked into to see if the requests were still active.

Councilor Conrad asked Ron if he said the projects were listed in priority order.

Ron said they were not in priority of the consultants. He tried to keep them in order but depending on the severity of a sanitary sewer he might have shuffled them.

Discussion was held on the priority list.

Councilor Conrad asked about the existing conditions list and said many of the proposed pipe diameters had a very big increase and she was wondering what that was about.

Ron said most of the projects in the Master Plan were undersized for the 10 year storm and upstream development worsens the situation. The modeling from the Master Plan showed that the system would surcharge under a 10 year storm and flooding would occur during a 25 year event. He said surcharge under a 10 year storm discharge is inadequate for a 10 year peak, several of the pipes were 30-36 but they needed to be up in the 40 inch or larger. Additional upstream development will create more regular flood events.

Councilor Conrad asked if the big jump was because they were so small to begin with.

Ron said yes.

Councilor Conrad asked if she heard Ron say that he added in projects so some of the projects listed were not in the Master Plan.

Ron said no all of the projects were in the Master Plan.

Councilor Munroe said he didn't see a listing for Harrison from R to River Road, it was talked about how bad the street was coming apart, did this mean that the infrastructure was sound there.

Ron said yes. Ron said the #1 listed priority on the list was the highest rated priority.

Public Works Director Jan Wellman asked what percentage of the storm drain system was closed pipe and what percent was open ditches.

Ron said he didn't have an accurate percentage but guessed that 2/3 was closed pipe and 1/3 was

open ditch, 70%/30%.

Councilor Munroe asked if open ditch would be like North Douglas.

Ron said yes along the railroad tracks, North Douglas, down by the school barns, Cleveland there was an open ditch to an outfall, the freeway along Cooper, Johnson, that area was open ditch until it hit about South 8th Street.

Councilor Fleck asked if the project for those was to actually put in pipe.

Ron said yes, several of those were.

Councilor Munroe asked about the projects near the freeway and if the federal government was going to be involved.

Ron said he didn't look at funding packages, the list only included projects and their costs.

Councilor Fleck asked when the City decided to go with a 10 year storm. He said ODOT planned for a 100 year on all the freeways and he said a 10 year seemed smaller.

Ron said it depended on the frequency of a storm the City incurred. At sometime it was decided that it was adequate to handle the majority of the storms. In the 1985 Master Plan it said the majority of the storms were in that 10 year range.

Councilor Fleck said the flood insurance was through the government and did having a 10 year storm impact what homeowners would pay for flood insurance.

Ron said he didn't know the answer to that question.

Councilor Fleck said if you lived above the flood plain yet the City wasn't able to handle it, how did that work.

Planning Technician Jessica Taylor said as far as the National Flood Insurance Program you were required to get flood insurance if you were within the hundred year flood plain. If you lived outside that hundred year flood plain, no one was requiring you to get insurance. The rates were set by the federal government, the storm drain system wouldn't change that.

Councilor Munroe gave an example of pipe sizes in the system and asked how the City's system worked.

Ron said he was correct, the higher the elevation it would be a smaller pipe and as you got down to the flat lands they would be larger pipes to handle all the runoff that was generated on the uphill site.

Councilor Conrad asked if the projects did or did not include green infrastructure.

Ron said they did not include green infrastructure.

Richard asked if Ron had any cost estimates if the City changed from a ten year flood scenario to a twenty-five year flood scenario.

Ron said he could figure it out and give a report back but he didn't have that information readily available.

Councilor Fleck said it wouldn't be a doubling because the City would be over sizing pipes so the construction and labor costs would be the same it would just be the cost of the materials.

Ron said he was correct it shouldn't double but you would need to dig wider trenches to accommodate the larger pipes.

Discussion was held.

Councilor Conrad asked if there was an official history as to when the City did have a flood and what the ramifications of that was.

Jan said the ten year flood was the engineering standard, most towns designed for ten year floods.

Ron mentioned that there has been discussion in past work sessions about the cost indexes that were used by the sub-consultant and he referred to the Engineering News Record magazine he received weekly and there was an economic section in it and he listed the twenty cities used to calculate the cost indexes. He said each week they reviewed a different section of the construction index and looked at them by the twenty cities and asked what the costs were in each city. In the particular issue he was looking at, Seattle was the lowest. It varied and the index had been going on since 1913 and the City had tracked it for a number of years.

Mayor Williams asked several years ago when prices were high, the cost of concrete was the same to install as asphalt and asked if that was still the trend.

Ron said in raw materials, concrete might be a little cheaper, however it was more labor intensive so that drove the cost up so he would estimate that asphalt was currently the cheaper way to go.

Councilor Munroe asked if the longevity was higher for concrete than asphalt.

Ron said it could be.

Discussion was held about concrete and asphalt.

Councilor Fleck asked what percentage of over sizing pipes was covered by SDC fees. If it wasn't built to standards could SDCs be used for the over sizing.

Ron said currently under the Code anything above an 8" pipe was considered SDC eligible.

Councilor Munroe asked if an 8" pipe was current under the ten year storm.

Ron said the Code doesn't say an 8" pipe at the ten year storm, it says if any development was over an 8" pipe in your storm drain. If your development required a 15" to handle the ten year storm that you designed to, the SDC would pay the difference between the 8" and 15".

Mayor Williams allowed the public to ask questions.

Jon Stinnett from the Cottage Grove Sentinel, asked what made the first project listed on South 10th Street a top priority.

Ron said it was the highest priority based on the parameters he gave earlier in the matrix of projects. It was way undersized, going from a 30" to a 36" pipe and was creating a bottleneck in the middle of the system. It came out as having the highest potential of damage and personal property.

Jon asked about upper developments bringing more storm water into the system.

Richard said those were things that contributed to it. He explained how it worked with too much stormwater in the system than it was equipped to handle.

Mayor Williams talked about the number of natural springs that feed into the system as well.

Councilor Murphy asked about the work on Chestnut and if it was due to the developments up above and around it.

Ron said part of it was the development and part of it was the runoff and the amount of springs that come off of Mt. David.

Richard said it was important to note that for M Street and for Sunrise Ridge, they put in a new stormwater system.

Ron said they put in a 27" on the East side of M Street down to Silt Creek and as it developed they were going to come back into M Street and replace an undersized pipe to a 36" pipe that would run down the West side of M Street.

Councilor Fleck asked if they also had a swale.

Ron said yes and there was also a 24" pipe that they were using on N Street so there would be three or four different pipes and a swale to accommodate the development on Mt. David.

Richard said to go back to Councilor Conrad's question about green systems, in the developed and more dense parts of town it was difficult to put in some of the green systems, which did

require a swale or space to handle it to get it into the ground surface. There had been some put in at the hospital and water treatment plant.

Ron said Bohemia Park had a proposed one and when the hospital developed it wasn't in the code to be handled as "green". There was more latitude under the current Development Code but we did need to write the section on stormwater management.

Richard and Ron talked about "green" issues.

Councilor Munroe asked if the City was going to have to make a large financial correction for the highschool and its drainage system.

Ron said no, that their drainage system was designed for the ten year storm. The City may have to treat it eventually when the population reached 10,000 but it had some treatment options already in it; they had sumps in their manholes that settled out grit and those kind of things and they had a wetland on the highschool property.

Councilor Munroe said even though it was school district property, it was still the citizen's tax dollars at work and if you took it from one portion that was going to make something else short.

Ron said the majority of the storm drain system on the highschool property, not including the parking lot but the infrastructure, was for the City. The infrastructure went from the entrance to the highschool, towards Lane County, by LCC to R Street then picked up the drainage from the baseball field. The hillside was where the wetland was located and they had to design that. There was a majority, maybe 50% in the highschool development that became the City's.

Councilor Munroe asked if the water that ran across and into the river was only half.

Ron said yes, the parking lot drained and all that drained to the highschool and the roof drain was all the private side but there was a public component of that, that drained to the highschool as well as R Street and White Hills.

Richard asked if we knew the total number of out falls the City had.

Ron said no, he didn't have that information but there were quite a few.

Mayor Williams asked if there was a smoke test to determine where they were.

Ron said they probably knew where most of them were, most of them you could visually see when walking along the river.

Discussion was held on the location of out falls.

Mayor Williams asked Ron to describe treatment systems.

Ron said it depended on what the rule was. He thought it would come down to a settlement process that you got the grit and rocks out, separated out the plastics and then passed through a removal process where a green environment pulled out or filtered other contaminants. The oils, petroleum and anti-freeze products would have to meet removal limits to meet the parameters of the City's out fall permits.

Councilor Conrad said she had gone to many green conferences and they all say that the green infrastructure was cheaper than traditional infrastructure.

Councilor Munroe thanked Ron and staff for providing the information to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Williams adjourned the work session of the City Council at 10:26am.

Trudy Borrevik, City Recorder

Gary Williams, Mayor