

**MINUTES-SPECIAL SESSION
NEOSHO CITY COUNCIL
August 27, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers
203 E. Main St., Neosho, MO**

A quorum being present, Mayor Davidson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Charles Collinsworth (Arrived at 1:11 p.m.); Richard Davidson; Steve Hart; Timothy Lewis;
Tom Workman

CITY OFFICERS PRESENT:

Steven Hays, City Attorney; Troy Royer, City Manager; Nora Houdyshell, City Clerk

Presentation from Alliance Water Resources, Inc. of qualifications for water/wastewater management systems.

Mayor Davidson announced Alliance Water Management has agreed to present services they offer as the City faces challenges due to the departure of Mr. Hightower and Mr. Linch as well as the long time problem of water loss.

Ms. Sandy Neal, Director of Business Development and Human Resources of Alliance Water Management briefly reviewed the services offered and provided a brochure to the council for review. She introduced Mr. Jim Ianke as a seasoned water and wastewater professional with more than 31 years of experience and Mr. Terry Merritt as a proven, multi-faceted manager of a variety of public works services and operations who also holds the highest certifications in water and wastewater treatment, distribution and collection.

Councilman Collinsworth arrived at 1:11 p.m.

The discussion and presentation included, but not limited to, the following points:

- Alliance has managed more than 100 different water or wastewater treatment facilities;
- They offer substantial knowledge drawn from their 250+ employees;
- They provide a full time, property licensed manager to direct daily operations;
- They will focus on filling all staff positions;
- They provide an outstanding benefits package as well as crediting current city employees with years of service and have no waiting periods for benefits should they be hired by Alliance;
- They operate and maintain facilities in Missouri, Iowa and Tennessee;
- Will provide support for other departments;
- Monitor and report environmental compliance to both state and federal regulatory agencies;
- Water rates have not historically been raised due to their partnership with cities;
- DNR will notify the City as they own the utilities should an issue arise;
- Alliance will work with the city with requests for upgrades;
- Mr. Merritt briefly discussed findings while visiting the wastewater treatment facilities as follows:
 - 1) BOD's at 400/500 which is too high for this type of town, when they should be 159;
 - 2) Algae issues at the Golf Course which could be resolved with disinfectants or a proper amount of UV light;
 - 3) Motto is to reduce, reuse and rethink to make a more efficient working atmosphere.
- Mr. Ianke explained if water reaches below a 20 psi there should be a boil order.

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City Manager Royer stated city staff researched Alliance along with the DNR website. There were two instances wherein Alliance managed cities were penalized.

Ms. Neal stated had she known ahead of time she would have had an answer but will look into it.

CLOSED MEETING:

Motion to close the meeting pursuant to Section 610.021(1) RSMo,...Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys and Section 610.021(12) RSMo...Sealed bids related documents, until the bids are opened; and sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected by Mayor Davidson and seconded by Councilman Lewis

Roll call vote:

Charles Collinworth – Yes
Richard Davidson – Yes
Steve Hart – Yes
Timothy Lewis – Yes
Tom Workman - Yes

Motion carried.

Mayor Davidson closed the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

The meeting reconvened in open session at 2:56 p.m. and Mayor Davidson announced the council conferred with the city attorney and one vote was taken.

Mayor Davidson stated instruction has been given by council to the City Attorney and City Manager for contract negotiations to begin as soon as possible with Alliance for the management of the City's Water/Wastewater treatment facilities and possibly expanding services in the future.

Mr. Jim Ianke provided explanation to City Manager's question during the presentation regarding the two incidents wherein the city, under Alliance's management, was issued a penalty.

ADJOURN

Mayor Davison asked if there was any further business to come before Council, with no response he asked for a motion to adjourn the August 18, 2015, Special Session City Council meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Davidson and seconded by Councilman Workman. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Mayor Davidson adjourned the regular session meeting at 2:57 p.m.

APPROVED:

NEOSHO CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk