

The Council of the City of Wellington, Kansas, met in a Work Session on August 8th, 2016 at 5:30 p.m., in the City Council Room, City Administration Center, with Mayor Shelley Hansel presiding.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hansel.

Council members Bill Butts, Jan Korte, Jim Valentine, Kelly Hawley, and Vince Wetta were present at roll call. Council member Kip Etter was absent.

Members of the Staff present were Interim City Manager / Finance Director Shane Shields, City Clerk Carol Mericle, City Attorney Mike Brown, Public Utility Director Jason Newberry, Water Production Supervisor Mike Clift, and Water Distribution Supervisor Randy Condit.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Raw Water Issue. Mayor Hansel asked Interim City Manager/Finance Director Shields to begin the discussion with a review of the issue. He read a summary of the issue and explained the Consent Order that was sent to the City by Kansas Department of Health and Environment with the date of September 30th, 2016 as the deadline to sign the Consent Order and send to KDHE. He further explained the purpose of this meeting was to finalize a plan of action for the Consent Order to deal with the issue. City Attorney Brown was called on to explain the purpose of the Consent Order. He said the City should include the history of what lead to this problem showing the City did not start out intending to do the wrong thing. He agreed with Manager Shields that the City needs to set a plan of action to be decided on at our next regular meeting on how to comply with the Order.

Mayor Hansel told the Council that several of the raw water customers were present and wanted to know if they were willing to try to drill wells or what options are available. Director Newberry told the options that have been discussed before, including an offer to the customers giving them \$6,000 to drill their own wells. Of the 13 offers only 7 customers have accepted the offer and have drilled wells successfully, leaving 6 who have not agreed to the offer. He told of the other option to build a water line from the water treatment plant to these customers could cost as much as \$387,000, according to an estimate from Professional Engineering Consultants of Wichita. Vince Wetta asked about an old line that exists in that area. Supervisor Condit said the line was abandoned long ago and was not an option due to probable collapsed areas of it.

The option of drilling new wells, if these wells were abandoned, was discussed. Director Newberry told that the wells involved in this issue are responsible for 30% of the City water supply.

City Attorney Brown told the contracts for the 5 water wells were entered into in 1954 and they allow easements to the land for the City to obtain water for our use and gives free water to the land owners. He feels if the specified free water goes away, so does the access to the wells.

Eldon Troutman, owner of the A-5 well, said the contract he has says the City will provide water and if that stops so does the access of ½ mile of farm ground to the well, including electric lines to the well, and the water line. Other contract holders present were Stuart Shinliver, Dave Kelley, and Steve Glenn. The consensus of the well owners present would agree to the new line with a limited number of gallons allowed that were free.

Council member Wetta asked the PEC representative if the water line cost could vary. Mike Kelsey responded the estimate is high and cost would depend on whether the City crew constructs the line or the City hires a contractor.

Council member Wetta stated he is concerned about the opinion of Wellington citizens about spending the money on a rural water line. Council member Hawley said she was concerned about future drought and the need for water for those citizens.

There was further discussion on the cost and time needed to build new wells if these wells are not available. Mr. Kelsey explained the timeline of getting a license would take a year, as well as construction, and this would be beyond the dates to comply with the State order.

The consensus of the Council is to put in the water line to protect our water supply and negotiate new contracts with the owners with limits. Manager Shields reminded the Council of the need to decide how to answer the Consent order at the August 16th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk