

Committee of the Whole
August 9, 2016

Present: Mayor Vulich, Council Members Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, Determann, O'Neill, Connell, Allesee, City Administrator, City Attorney (by telephone), City Clerk, Press and interested citizens.

1. Presentation of Alternative Energy Study at the RWRF – Caleb Gibson

Caleb Gibson, St Ambrose University, provided the Council with a Power Point presentation related to alternative energy options at the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (RWRF).

He stated that wind energy was investigated and determined not a feasible energy source at the RWRF. For small turbines a speed of 12 mph is needed for reliable power production. DA Solar gave an average wind speed in the area of the RWRF at 10.3 mph, data from the Clinton Municipal Airport reports it at 9.8 mph, and the NREL's wind speed map shows 10.08 mph. He continued in stating that as the size of turbines increases the minimum speed increases also. The eastern part of Iowa has a better solar potential. There is not a threshold value as there is with wind. The upfront cost for solar tends to be less expensive than wind. The \$350/kWh cost of batteries, along with a life time of 5-10 years makes them prohibitive if utility connection is available. It is because of this that battery backup is not considered as viable.

He further stated that if an alternative energy system is pursued, a ground mounted, fix tilt, 500 kW aggregate capacity solar array could be installed in a City of Clinton owned field directly north of the secondary clarifiers. This array would be best financed through a power purchase agreement with a third party lender. A secondary option is the installation of a 2000 kW solar array. This option is only viable if it is determined that the local grid has the capacity for a potential additional 1.5 megawatts without major modification.

He proceeded to state that excess electricity produced by a solar array would not be sold at the \$/kWh rate that the city of Clinton pays for electricity. Due to the RWRF being on the Large General Service electricity tariff, it therefore has a demand charge for electricity. An Iowa Utilities Board decision July 19, 2016, determined that systems of 1000 kW of size or smaller must be Allowed Net-Metering. This new rule set is also extended to Large General Service tariffs. Net-metering still does not account for demand charges. If the practice of net metering was granted, the facility could be credited at the estimated average price of \$0.0380/kWh. If net metering was not granted, the purchase rate for excess generation was roughly estimated at \$0.025/kWh. He advised the Council that as of a 2014 Iowa Supreme Court ruling, purchasing power produced by an onsite solar array through a third party has been a legal way to financially plan a solar instalment. These power purchase agreements, (PPA), begins with allows a third party developer designing, permitting, financing and installing a solar energy system on the desired users property. With this method, the developer not the municipality handles the procurement and financing. This allows the user to purchase the generated power at a determined rate, without the large upfront costs that come with a solar installation. Agreements have various possible structures, with an expected agreement length of 20 years. The exact terms of a PPA would be determined with the investor chosen.

He stated that if a solar array system is to be pursued for installation the next steps would be: an assessment from Alliant Energy, the hiring of a consultant, issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP), contract development, and permitting.

Councilmember Allesee inquired regarding who would be a purchaser. Mr. Gibson stated that installers and investors would be purchasers.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that there is not a great deal of cost savings without tax credits or grants. Councilmember McGraw stated that the City could not receive a tax credit since municipalities do not pay taxes. Councilmember O'Neill stated that there would be a very minimal return on investment.

2. Discussion of 19th Avenue as a Truck Route

Ms. Amy Alton-Stonebrook advised the Council that that truck traffic on 19th Avenue North will increase noise and vibration. Persons wishing to drive 19th Avenue North would have a more pleasurable trip without trucks. She stated that the bike and pedestrian trail will not be safe with semis and since there are no businesses on 19th Avenue North there is no reason for semis to make deliveries. She further stated that the biggest advantage is for commuters and visitors coming into town. She proceeded to state that if there are no restrictions on funding she would ask that semis not be allowed on 19th Avenue North.

Mr. Mike Rastrelli, President of the Lyons Business & Professionals Association, advised the Council that the Association supports having truck traffic on Main Avenue.

Mr. Clyde Bradley advised the Council that he was part of the Highway 30 Coalition. He stated that on one of his trips to Washington DC the primary issue was 19th Avenue North. He continued in stating that one major concern is safety around the schools. He further stated that it was intended to have truck traffic on 19th Avenue North and he was unsure if there is any funding restrictions. He proceeded to stated that this is a key loop around the City.

Councilmember Determann stated that everyone had a vision of four lanes on Highway 30 from Illinois. It is fortunate that the City has two bridges so that when work is being performed on one the other can be used.

City Engineer Jason Craft advised that the estimated truck volume on 19th Avenue North is 110 trucks and the total traffic volume is 5,500 so 2% of the traffic on that street is truck traffic.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that in a 2004 document it states that 19th Avenue North would take the undesirable traffic and leave Main Avenue for pedestrians. Mr. Rastrelli stated that trucks have never been undesirable on Main Avenue. Mayor Vulich stated that trucks will not be allowed to park on the new brickwork on Main Avenue. Mr. Rastrelli stated that a number of trucks are using a parking lot off of Cleveland Street. Having truck traffic on Main Avenue gives people a chance to pass by the stores and then come back to purchase something.

Mr. Bob Bell advised the Council that 19th Avenue North is a quiet neighborhood. He stated that he has seen several trucks and every time they are in the area the windows rattle and the foundation shakes. He continued in stating that there was a large excavator by his home which was upsetting his animals and shaking the house. He further stated that truck traffic will diminish

property values. He proceeded to state that it is unsafe for his grandchildren to play in his yard with truck traffic going by. He further stated that it is ludicrous to have semis in the neighborhood. Councilmember McGraw inquired regarding whether Mr. Bell had attended the public meeting at the Ericksen Center. He stated that he did attend; however, did not receive any good answers.

Mr. Dave Barr, 1820 North 3rd Street stated that his property parallels 19th Avenue North. He continued in stating that he agrees with his neighbor and it would be better to leave the area residential. He further stated that he understands the need to improve traffic through town; however, his house is a block away and he can feel the vibrations. He proceeded to state that the intersection at 19th Avenue North and North 3rd Street sees numerous accidents and truck traffic would make it more hazardous. He further stated that people's properties are ruined and devalued due to loss of yards.

Councilmember Determann inquired regarding the number of trucks off the North Bridge. Engineer Craft stated that he did not have that number; however, the 110 trucks on 19th Avenue North is accurate. Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding whether there are stipulations tied to the funding. Engineer Craft stated that the Iowa DOT has said that it is not necessary to allow truck traffic on 19th Avenue North. He continued in stating that trucks do not present a safety concern on Main Avenue; however, the main concern is to get traffic from point A to point B. City Administrator Kinser stated that 19th Avenue Northwest extension encompasses the Lyons Business and Tech Park and Randall Court to Main Avenue. She continued in stating that there was discussion about not embargoing truck traffic that just wants to pass through.

Councilmember Determann stated that 19th Avenue North was built to truck and highway standards and to move people and freight the fastest and quickest way. It improves the system effectively through Clinton and completes the loop.

Councilmember Connell stated that all the folks who developed this in 2004 did a great job; however, we are here for the citizens and business owners. Councilmember Determann stated that the Council must work for the City as a whole.

Councilmember O'Neill thanked Clyde Bradley. He stated that everything was true in 2004 and 2008. It was a great vision back then; however, the plans have not come to fruition. The City has taken away resident's land and they are asking that truck traffic not be allowed and the business owners want the trucks. He further stated that there is no reason to change a thing. It was a great plan, but not necessary.

M/S, Seeley-Gassman moved to embargo truck traffic on 19th Avenue North from North 2nd Street to Randall Court. On roll call, Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, O'Neill, Connell, Allesee - Yes; Determann - No. Motion carried.

M/S, Gassman-Connell moved to embargo truck traffic on 19th Avenue Northwest from Randall Court to Main Avenue. On roll call, Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, O'Neill, Connell, Allesee - Yes; Determann - No. Motion carried.

Councilmember Connell inquired regarding what the fines are for driving a truck on an embargoed route. Captain William Greenwalt, Clinton Police Department stated that there are no standard fines. The Police Department utilizes the State of Iowa schedule of fines which breaks it down by weight overage. Police Chief Kevin Gyrion stated that the purpose of fines is to change behavior. The Clinton Police Department will enforce the ordinance to change behavior.

3. Augustana Stormwater Report – Jessica Kinser/Jason Craft/Bob Milroy

City Administrator Kinser stated that the City has looked at a number of properties with cross connects and how to encourage the property owners to disconnect from the sewer system. There has been positive feedback from the people and some have disconnected. City Engineer Jason Craft stated that the City has a problem with combined sewer overflow and only so much can be treated before it goes into the river. He continued in stating that Augustana spent a lot of time here in the Springdale and Galbraith Acres area. He further stated that based on data, there is a spike during rain events. In an area we thought we would get good results 30% do have sump pumps and 1/3 of those are connected to the sewer system. If we extrapolate this City-wide, there are millions of gallons we are not treating and sending to the river. We know we have a problem; however, do not know how to address it. He proceeded to state that the City will whittle the list down by disconnecting roof drains. It is harder to disconnect sump pumps because it could cost the property owner \$1,000 to \$2,000. All cities share this problem. He stated that the question is do we want to participate in a sump pump disconnect program by paying up to a certain amount to the homeowner to help with the disconnection. Other cities include a surcharge on the sewer bill. We would need a part-time inspector to go into the homes and then talk to the homeowners about the incentive program. He continued in stating that he is not making recommendations regarding disconnecting or incentives.

Councilmember Determann inquired regarding whether down spouts put as much, or more water into the sewer system as sump pumps. Engineer Craft stated that large roof drains guarantee a large amount of water; however, sump pumps contribute a lot more since they run day after day. He continued in stating that he was recommending development of an inspection program as a data collecting exercise and adopt the changes in Chapters 52 and 53.

Councilmember Allesee stated that it is hard to disconnect in the downtown area. Engineer Craft stated that it is difficult; however, if a storm sewer is constructed in the downtown they would connect into that. Councilmember Seeley suggested placing information on the back of the sewer bills. City Administrator Kinser stated that education is a large part; however, the back of a sewer bill will not hold enough information. We must look at sections of town where we can get the biggest “bang for the buck”. If they stay connected there is an increased likelihood that there will be sewer backup.

4. Mayor & Council Member Update

Councilmember O’Neill stated that he would hold his public forum at the Ericksen Center on August 20th.

Mayor Vulich advised that the Iowa DOT Okayed a grant for fuel tanks at the Clinton Airport.

M/S, Determann-O’Neill moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk