



**City Council Public Hearing/Meeting
Proposed Troy WWTP and Northern Interceptor Improvements
Thursday, March 21, 2024, 6:00pm**

1. Call to Order

A public meeting/hearing was held in the Council Chambers of the City Municipal Building, 116 East Market Street, Troy, Illinois, 62294. Mayor David Nonn called the hearing to order at 6:02pm and led the council members present and other attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Meeting Attendees

Council Members Present: Mayor David Nonn, Alderman Sam Italiano, Alderman Troy Turner

Other Officials Present: City Clerk Kim Thomas, City Engineer Tom Cissell.

Others Present: Serena Page, TWM; Marsha Maller, TWM; Chris Bergman, water customer; Paul Homann, water customer.

3. Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Troy WWTP and Northern Interceptor Improvements

Serena Page, IL Water Infrastructure Leader at TWM, gave a short presentation to the council and the public on the proposed Troy Wastewater Treatment Plan (WWTP) and Northern Interceptor Improvement Project.

Troy's existing system includes 60 miles of sewer mains, lift stations and force mains. The WWTP collection system processes 1.35 million gallons per day (MGD) with a peak flow of 3.9 MGD.

The IEPA identified issues with the existing system in 2014. Based on these findings, the City of Troy requested TWM develop a facility plan. The original plan was completed in 2017. It was updated in 2020. IEPA concerns were (1) Incidents above allowable volumetric discharge and (2) incidents above allowable organic/chemical loading. Additional reasons for upgrade include the growing population of the city and the age of the plant (built in 1994)/collection system (built in 1952).

Phase I of the project includes installation of an AGS system with four tanks, the headworks, the updated UV treatment system, and a terminal lift station along with the Northern Interceptor. The redesigned plant has a smaller footprint because the AGS tanks have been moved closer to the existing system. The Northern Interceptor will include four lift stations, 6000 feet of gravity sewer, and 12,000 feet of force main sewer, focused on the north portion of the city.

Phase II includes upgrades to the existing plant: repurposing the two oxidation tanks into digesters and the clarifiers into overflow tanks.

Phase III includes expanding the sludge storage area.

Phase IV includes updating of the tertiary filters.

4. Public Input (Questions from attendees; answers from Serena Page, TWM)

Q: Mayor Nonn – What is the estimated completion date?

A: Phase I would start in 2024 and would take two years to complete. Each subsequent phase will take one year: Phase II would start in 2026, Phase III in 2027, and Phase IV in 2028.

Q: Mayor Nonn asked for a brief overview of the new technology.

A: The AGS is similar to the SBR (sequencing batch reactors) system, but the granules used have been updated. It settles faster and will ensure everything stays in one tank. It eliminates the need for oxidation tanks and clarifiers.

Q: Mayor Nonn – Will the annual cost of operation and maintenance on the new system be more or less than the existing system?

A: It should be less. There is a smaller footprint; you won't need as much air to push through the tanks because they will be smaller. Per Alderman Turner, the biggest savings the city will realize is in the cost of aeration.

Q: Alderman Turner – The slide says “chlorine room”. Are we using chlorine for disinfection?

A: No. Disinfection will be via UV. The UV system being installed in Phase I will be slightly different than the existing. It will work more efficiently and be easier to maintain. The chlorine room identifier is from an older slide.

Q: City Engineer Cissell – The Northern Interceptor will require a lot of easements. Have we started contacting those people?

A: TWM is not working on that. Mr. Hancock (Public Works Director) is. He said during the last meeting with TWM that he had already started conversations with the property owners. Q: Alderman Turner – Does the loan application also ask for engineering cost reimbursement?

A: Yes.

Q: City Engineer Cissell – What’s the next step after tonight?

A: TWM has to allow ten days for comments to come in. On Sunday, March 31st, an email will be sent to IEPA with comments received, if any. That is the final step for planning to be approved. IEPA will then move forward with scoring of the projects. The list will come out on July 1, 2024, showing scoring and loan awardees.

Q: Mr. Homann – What is the projected population for the whole system?

A: The estimated population of the service area when the facility plan was completed was based on existing population plus 50 percent. Mrs. Page believes the new system is engineered to support 20,000 customers.

Q: Mr. Homann – Will the Northern Interceptor be normal trench or will it be bored?

A: Some will need to be bored. TWM is working with Army Corps of Engineers on portions of the project.

Q: Mr. Homann – What is the Phase I costing split between the plant and the Northern Interceptor?

A: The costing of Phase I was not split in the PEID. The two parts were combined at a cost of \$45M.

Q: Mr. Bergman – Were easement acquisition costs included in the project cost?

A: Mrs. Page says she doesn’t believe so. Mr. Cissell said that easement acquisition costs are in the city’s budget next [fiscal] year.

Q: Mr. Bergman – Is there functionality to allow for future PFAS requirements that are coming down the pike from national/federal/state?

A: That was part of the reason for the change from SBR to AGS. AGS is more efficient and is anoxic; better at treating for dangerous chemicals. Alderman Turner said the city did testing and did not have PFAS in our water coming up. Mrs. Page said that one of the benefits of the smaller footprint is that the city still has room to add a newer system needed to treat that in the future.

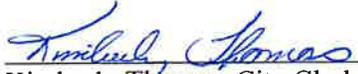
Additional questions were asked and answered concerning the cost increase and the scheduling of the project, originally costed out at \$20M in 2017. Mrs. Page said it is primarily due to construction costs, which have skyrocketed in the last 3-4 years. Equipment costs have significantly increased as well. Questions were also asked about whether the rate increases, which were started in 2021-2022, will be sufficient in light of the increased cost of the project. Mayor Nonn said the increase may need to be changed from five percent to eight percent. The city is also growing, so some of the cost will be offset by wider apportionment. Additional options and solutions for lowering the cost or the impact of the cost were discussed. Mayor Nonn asked what the current interest rate is for the IEPA loan. Mrs. Page does not know yet. Mr. Cissell said the cost of the project is probably not going to change, but getting more people serviced will lessen the financial impact for all customers.

5. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the public hearing.

Moved by Italiano. **Seconded by** Turner. **Vote:** Motion passed by voice vote.

Meeting/hearing adjourned at 6:58pm.



Kimberly Thomas, City Clerk