

Water and Sewer Committee Meeting

Minutes

July 27th, 2021

5:30 PM

Present: Kali Godfrey, Ken Koffler. Via phone: Kysa Rasmussen

Absent: None

Visitors:

Mayor Norby, Clerk Treasurer Chamberlin, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Shanks, PWD Hintz, Utilities Manager Anderson, Steve Lunderby. Via phone: Laura Gundlach (Morrison Maierle)

Lunderby dumping of animal washdown water:

PWD Hintz stated Steve Lunderby of Eastern Montana Meats is asking for permission to put the wash down water from the butchering of cattle into the City Sewer. Mr. Lunderby stated this would only be temporary until they get things permitted via the DEQ, for a max of 10 months to a year. He stated their engineer has provided samples of what the wash down water is. Mrs. Gundlach stated she reviewed the samples and compared them to what our system is currently capable of treating with the current design. She stated the oxygen and nitrogen levels in their wash down water exceed what our system is safely capable of treating, safely meaning not compromising our system or triggering a requirement for new treatments. Utilities Manager Anderson stated the fats, oil, and grease will negatively affect the system, which could take up to a year to fully recover from. He stated the bugs in our system that eat the waste are not the right bugs to eat this type of waste and could cause the entire system to go septic, the costs of which to fix could be extremely high. Mrs. Gundlach stated this waste, even at the amount being discussed, will change the biology and chemistry of the lagoon. Utilities Manager Anderson stated the industrial business is in the County, if they would have resided in the City Limits their internal system would have to have been made to take care of these issues prior to us receiving their waste. He further stated that the City did take waste not suitable for the lagoon system previously, which cause issues to the point that it caused the need for the new \$18 million system we just got done putting in. Mrs. Gundlach stated the waste being in the pipes could cause blocks also.

Motion was made to recommend not allowing the dumping of the animal washdown water from Eastern Montana Meats by Alderman Koffler and Alderwoman Rasmussen seconded. Alderman Koffler stated it was unfortunate, as they would like to help this business in the community but can't at the risk of the lagoon and the additional costs to users. Alderwoman Rasmussen stated our obligation is to make sure the expensive system we have continues and to those users. With no further discussion, all present voted aye.

Meeting was adjourned at pm 5:51 pm.

BreeAnn Shanks, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Ken Koffler, Committee Chair