

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA
-SPECIAL MEETING-
*Thursday, January 17, 2008 – 12:00 Noon***

Members of the Whittemore City Council met in Special Session on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 12:00 Noon in the Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Elbert presiding. Present were Simonson, Fraser, Brownell and Muller. Absent: Setzer. Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting included John Harger of Vessco, Inc., Richard Hopper of Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Mike Elbert, Bryan Meyer, Mark Lenz, Andi Thompson, Cindy Simonson, Laurie Dahlhauser, Bev Walker and Bill Elbert of Elbert Bros. Well Drilling.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the troubles the city is experiencing with the Water Plant and the rust and iron problems residents have to deal with once the water is out in the distribution system and into their homes.

Richard “Rick” Hopper of Jacobson-Westergard & Associates reported he has completed the Viability Assessment Report that is part of the requirements for State Revolving Fund (loan) applications. The Council reiterated that the city has applied for Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$300,000 to assist with the cost of the project, which is estimated to total \$886,500.00. The grant awards will be announced in early March, 2008. The time-frame for construction and operation of the new plant is estimated to be approximately 12 months from start to finish.

Jeff Harger of Vessco, Inc. reported on the past history of the plant since its repair ten years ago. He also spoke of what is currently happening with its operation, and he talked about future procedures of constructing a new plant and putting it into operation. He stated there are NO HEALTH RISKS with the water that is being put into the mains from the Whittemore Water Plant. More chlorine is being put into the system now due to the plant having to bypass the iron-removal filter. Chlorine is an oxidant and it makes the water itself more aggressive.

In order to help alleviate the brown or orange colored water that is entering some of the homes in town, Mr. Harger suggested a polyphosphate be introduced into the water. This would help mask the aggressive action of the water in the distribution system. If residents are still experiencing problems after the polyphosphate has been added by the City, he suggested residents contact a local hardware store to install a cartridge filtering system inside individual homes. This cost would be that of the resident, if they so choose to take this action. Also, water softeners could be added but they will only soften the water, not necessarily help remove the discoloration that is taking place.

Both Hopper and Harger noted that in designing a new plant, basic concepts of a plant are the same, but they are individualized after that to meet the city’s needs. Councilman Brownell inquired about the percentage of towns/communities that soften water inside the plant, before it leaves the facility, versus those that don’t, whereby each homeowner is responsible for having a water softener inside their home. Mr. Harger thought the percentage would be a 50/50 split. He noted the decision to have or have not is based on what minerals are present in the water/well that is serving the public.

When asked what the plant and building construction costs would be with or without a softener system, Mr. Harger stated he thought by eliminating a softener system, he estimated it would ultimately cut the over-all cost of the project by a minimum of 20%. Councilperson Fraser stated she believes the City of Whittemore should continue to provide softened water to the residents; that the city should not take away a service that has been provided to the public since the early 1970s. She feels many residents, especially the elderly, would be financially unable to meet the added costs that such a decision by the city would result incur for the citizens of Whittemore).

The Council, Mr. Hopper and Mr. Harger answered questions the public in attendance had for them. After further discussion, with no action being taken on the issue of a softener system being installed in the new

plant, motion was made by Simonson and seconded by Muller that Richard Hopper of Jacobson-Westergard & Associates proceed with engineering design work and plans for the new plant. Vote was all AYES; motion carried. The new water plant building and equipment will be located east of the water tower.

The Council continued a discussion held during the January 7, 2008 regular Council meeting regarding procuring the debt recovery services of PCG Inc., of Humboldt, Iowa. The Council reviewed references for said collection agency. Upon motions by Fraser and Muller and a unanimous vote of the Council, PCG Inc. of Humboldt was hired for an annual fee of \$150.

The Clerk was asked to contact Jason Besch regarding the illegal parking of his semi trailer-tractor on Seventh Street.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Elbert declared the January 17, 2008 special meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Linda K. Farrell, City Clerk

Daniel J. Elbert, Mayor