

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**00-382**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

AUGUST 21, 2000

**SUBJECT:**

PERMISSION TO  
NEGOTIATE -  
WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT AND  
TRANSPORTATION  
WITH THE CITY OF  
ALTOONA

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD E. BENTZ,  
P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

WILLIAM STOWE  
WRF MANAGER,  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR  
DESIGNEE

The Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA) Management Agency, at its May 16th meeting, approved the City of Altoona's request to negotiate with a member agency for lease on an interim basis of WRA capacity. Altoona is a member of the WRA Management Agency; however it currently operates its own treatment facility and does not own any capacity in the WRA Facilities.

The City of Altoona has approached the City of Des Moines with a request for assistance concerning its wastewater treatment. Currently, the City of Altoona is facing a need to pursue plant improvements at its current location or consider alternatives, including contracting out for the treatment of some or all of its wastewater treatment needs.

The City of Des Moines has substantial transportation and treatment capacity allocated to the City for future growth. This capacity could be utilized through a short-term lease for a portion of the City of Altoona's needs. (See Roll Call Attachment A "WRF Plant Treatment Capacity" and Attachment B "City of Des Moines Transportation Capacity".) The City of Altoona may then pursue longer term options through a coordinated review of overall area wastewater needs as part of the WRA Facility Plan Update, slated for completion by the end of calendar year 2002.

Staff requests permission to negotiate a lease of City transportation and treatment capacity of up to 1 million gallons per day (MGD) flow for Altoona wastewater. Negotiated terms of this lease will be brought back to Council for review and approval.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The revenues the City realizes from this lease will assist Des Moines in meeting the financial obligations to the WRA and

provide funds for City sanitary sewer improvements.

#### **RECOMMENDATION -**

**Authorize staff to negotiate lease terms with the City of Altoona for wastewater transportation and treatment capacity not to exceed 1 MGD. Staff recommends that revenues in excess of expenses be used for specific projects designed to reduce infiltration and inflow on the City's sewer system in areas such as the Bloomfield and Aurora/Debra Heights sanitary subsystems which currently have unbudgeted needs.**

#### **BACKGROUND -**

The WRA provides Wastewater Treatment services for nine area communities. Several other area communities, while within the existing WRA planning area, do not transport their wastewater for treatment at the WRA. Altoona, which is a member of the WRA Management Agency within the WRA Service Area, currently provides its own wastewater treatment needs and has approached the City of Des Moines to lease capacity as an option to further invest in its current facility. City of Des Moines staff, including representatives for the City's Engineering, Public Works, Legal, and Finance Departments have reviewed this request. City staff believes that the City of Des Moines has adequate transportation and treatment capacity to meet a portion of the City of Altoona's needs until a comprehensive review of the Metropolitan Area's wastewater needs is completed through an extensive Facility Plan Update. This Facility Plan Update invites current communities within the WRA Study Area and others outside it to participate in an engineering review of facilities necessary to provide environmentally appropriate wastewater transportation and treatment. Any lease term negotiated with Altoona should terminate upon implementation of Facility Plan recommendations.

Preliminary discussions with the City of Altoona have resulted in a request to lease 1 MGD of the City of Des Moines' transportation and treatment capacities. This would allow the City of Altoona to defer expansion of its current facility while participating in the WRA Facility Plan Update necessary to assess its options in phasing its current treatment plant out of operation.

If provided permission to negotiate with the City of Altoona, City of Des Moines staff will ensure that the recommended terms of this lease would: 1) ensure that the City of Des Moines meets its environmental responsibilities as the Operating Agency for the WRA; and 2) the rents collected would exceed costs to the City of Des Moines associated with increased wastewater flows to the WRA.

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