CITY OF ORONOCO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 6, 2005
6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joy Bertsinger called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Kevin McDermott, Scott Keigley, Joy Bertsinger, Jackie Hall, Clerk Cheryl Nymann, Doug Malchow
Absent: Tom Novak

III. RESOLUTION 05-04

Bertsinger read Resolution 05-04, a resolution updating the current Official Zoning Map for the City of Oronoco. **Bertsinger motioned to adopt Resolution 05-04, Hall second; VOICE VOTE: AYES: McDermott, Keigley, Bertsinger, Hall, motion carried and resolution adopted.**

IV. INTRODUCTION DOUG MALCHOW & SHEILA CRAIG, SEMN WASTEWATER INITIATIVE

Doug Malchow, Outreach and Education Coordinator for the SE MN Wastewater Initiative (SEMNWWI) was present. He stated that through the EPA 319 Grant, they provide homeowners education on septic systems and provide assistance to small communities with wastewater issues, and assist the City with determining their options. Doug stated that Oronoco is on the MPCA's 'list' of unsewered communities with systems that are failing and there are perceptions to imminent health. He asked if they, SEMNWWI, could work with Oronoco to determine who has good systems and discuss the options.

V. DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO GRANT

Doug said they first look at the county records to see who has good systems (those built after 1996-1997 generally have good systems) and work with Dennis Manning and Ryan Kraft from the County. They decide and assess other properties by going out to the sites and do on site evaluations.

Sheila Craig arrived at 6:15PM

The grant proposal would fund the gathering of information and to come up with a number of parcels which need to be brought up to code to put into the grant. He emphasized that there is no free money to put in collection systems. The MPCA does not have money for building systems (even if MPCA requires the City to fix the problems

. The funding hierarchy has moved to the following priorities:

1. Individual Systems
2. Clusters
3. On site & Clusters
4. Large Collection Systems
5. Hooking up to Another System

Doug stated that the grant could be strengthened by the city developing a management plan. This management plan could be an ordinance stating that the homeowners septic system would need to be pumped every 3 years. And if it isn't pumped, then the city will have it pumped and it will be charged back to the homeowner. Council questioned Doug as to whether the City has the authority to inspect system. Doug stated that a Olmsted county official could go to the door and knock, drive by and stop and look around; and if someone asks them to leave, then they have to. The City would need to have good public education about what is being done.

Tom Novak arrived at 6:30PM

The City needs to decide if they want to go forward with pursuing this grant to study the city's needs. Keigley stated that the huge amount of money spent years ago on an engineer's water and sewer study, should've been spend on an approach like this. It was stated that there is interest from the public for a task force, and this wastewater issue can't be ignored any longer. The city could go through this process of help to identify the problems and help find solutions, then apply to the EPA for grants to build the septic systems. Novak suggested getting a municipal system to attract businesses south of town by the new interchange. Keigley stated that individual systems are fine for the city. Keigley called for point of order and that this is a discussion on whether or not the City should go forward to apply for the grant with assistance from SEMNWWI to assess problems and suggest solutions. The City would need to have a resolution and a letter of support for the grant application to proceed. Doug stated that the pre-grant proposal is due 4.22.05 and that notification by Ball of 2005 of grant with funding available next Spring. That would allow the City plenty of time to educate the community. If there was a huge outcry from citizens, and the City decided not to proceed, then the city could turn the grant money back in. **Bertsinger motioned to approve Resolution 05-05 and a letter of support from the Council to pursue the grant for identifying wastewater problems and helping find solutions, Novak second; VOICE VOTE: AYES: Novak Hall, Bertsinger, Keigley, McDermott; all in favor, motion carried unanimously. Bertsinger motioned for the City to proceed with a management plan for private septic systems, Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Keigley motioned to adjourn at 7:00PM, Hall second; all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joy Bertsinger, Mayor

Cheryl Nymann, Clerk/Treasurer