

**ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING WORKSHOP AGENDA
FEBRUARY 4, 2019 AT 5:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. Call meeting to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Meeting Workshop Agenda
4. Review Results of Noise Testing with Staff from ESI Engineering.
5. Review 2019 City Council Goals.

ADJOURNMENT

**ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

The special workshop meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m., Mayor Richard Nagel presiding.

Members present: Mayor Rich Nagel, Michelle Battcher, Tom Hatlestad, Jim Heiland

Members arriving late: Ben Jaszewski

Members absent: Adam Cowell, City Attorney Ross Arneson

Also present: City Adm. Pat Melvin, EDA Consultant Amy Newsom, Kurt Menk, Administrative Assistant Laura Dykhoff

Also present via conference call: Andrew Schmidt and Tony Baxter with ESI Engineering, and Joshua Holwell, Manager of Northland Drying

The main purpose of the meeting was to conference parties from the Council, ESI Engineering and Northland Drying to discuss the results of the noise study conducted by ESI Engineering. Second purpose of the meeting was to discuss the City Council's Goals for 2019.

Motion by Battcher, seconded by Hatlestad, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Conference call hook up was accomplished. Those attending the meeting via conference call were Andrew Schmidt and Tony Baxter with ESI Engineering, and Joshua Holwell, Manager of Northland Drying.

ESI spent time detailing information provided in their report and answering questions posed by members of the Council. ESI believes that to correct the noise levels it needs to be determined where the most noise comes from – the stack, the exhaust and/or the fan. Any of these areas have relatively easy fixes. They would be willing to do additional testing for additional fees to be paid to them to narrow down where the most noise is emanating. ESI gave some examples of equipment which could alleviate/muffle some of the noise. It is their experience that it is necessary to fix the loudest source of the noise in order to correct the problem.

Josh Holwell on behalf of Northland Drying spoke to the changes they had previously tried to implement (the variable fan dryer). He explained that they had not been able to continue that due to the other problems the VFD presented within the plant itself and the inability to adequately dry down the product. There were questions as to why some times/some nights it is louder. Is there a damper variation – modulation of the fan motor, etc.? Northland Drying feels that when it is colder the sound echoes/travels more. Northland tried turning the bend at the top of the stack in different directions but it did not seem to make any appreciable difference in the noise complaints.

ESI would like to do additional testing, researching of the specifications on the actual equipment and could then write a proposal for Northland Drying. There would be an additional fee or fees due for this. When asked about a timeline for them to complete their end of this proposed work, they estimated it would be 2 – 3 weeks. But depending on what items would be needed to achieve the reduced noise, it is unknown the exact amount of time it would take, dependent upon availability of parts/equipment, potentially 3 months or longer.

Northland Drying responded that they would like to tackle this problem sooner rather than later. They did speak with ESI prior to the City coming in on the conference call about the report and potential resolution

to the issues. Additionally, they have reached out to Pesco Inc. (Twin Cities Dry Material Handling Experts) and talked with them about solutions they provided to a different company, which does a similar type of drying of product. Pesco believes that a silencer will help with the noise levels and could be installed in 2½ - 3 weeks. Northland acknowledged that they thought they had complied with the noise level restrictions for an industrial area and had been unaware that the state statute requires them to comply with residential area restrictions due to the fact that the business adjoins a residential area.

The Council expressed that they want to see the issue resolved, but do not want Northland to have to spend unnecessary money. They will leave it to Northland as to how they want to proceed. Northland would like to demonstrate to the residents that it is their intent to resolve this issue so that they can continue to do business here. The Mayor and Council stated they appreciated Northland's position in this matter regarding potential costs and their statements as to trying to get on this issue quickly. The City would appreciate updates from Northland as to what things are being done to mitigate the noise issue to keep residents apprised as things progress. The City would like Northland to do testing after the remediation work is done to show the residents that Northland is now in compliance.

After the conference call ended there was additional discussion between the Council and EDA Director Newsom regarding what she had been hearing from Northland Drying regarding their feeling about continuing business in the City, expanding, etc. The Council continued discussion as to how they felt about the conference call based upon what they were told by Northland prior to their opening and what the reality of the business operations are. Battcher did ask Adm. Melvin to look into whether the contract the City had with ESI Engineering covered a review of the specifications on the equipment in Northland Drying to assist Northland with their ability to reduce the noise. Open communication as this continues is what is needed. The City would like to see a deadline for Northland to complete work (dependent upon availability of needed parts) of May 1, to be substantially compliant.

Due to time constraints, motion by Battcher, seconded by Heiland, and passed by unanimous vote, to table the discussion of the Council's 2019 Goals until a Special Workshop meeting of the Council to be held at 5:00 p.m. on February 19, 2019.

Motion by Hatlestad, seconded by Battcher, and passed by unanimous vote, to adjourn the Special Workshop Meeting at 6:22 p.m.

City Administrator Patrick Melvin

Mayor Richard Nagel