

Get Houston Chronicle home delivery for only \$3 a week. **Save 61%!**

Oak Ridge OKs \$4.6 million for sewer system upgrades

By **BILL BRESLIN** CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

May 28, 2009, 8:53AM

Oak Ridge North City Council has approved \$4.6 million in certificates of obligation to upgrade the city's sewer system.

"Our infrastructure is around 40 years old," said Paul Mendes, city manager. "The funds will enable us to do a major overhaul on our sanitary sewer system."

The securing of finances began around two years ago. Last fall, the Texas Water Development Board approved the funding, Mendes said.

"We got remarkable rates," said John Howell, financial advisor to the city.

Oak Ridge North will pay an average of 3.84 percent interest on the 25 year loan, Howell said.

Mayor Fred O'Connor said that Howell has been working with the city for a long time and has always done "a great job."

Water well debate continues

During the May 26 meeting, representatives of the South Montgomery County Municipal Utility District proposed moving the entrance of the water well plant to Oakhurst Road — pending

two conditions.

The city would have to share in the cost of the relocation and pay \$125,000. Secondly, Village of Oak Ridge Grove residents and its homeowners association would have to sign a release promising not to file litigation regarding the building and operations of the plant.

Currently, the site's proposed entrance is Oak Grove Drive.

Councilman James Walton voiced his opposition to the conditions.

"It seems like you're putting the monkey on our back," Walton said. "If Oak Ridge North doesn't agree to pay \$125,000, then it's our fault (the entrance location doesn't change)."

Walton also said that it's highly improbable that all residents in the subdivision would sign the release.

Rick Moffatt, general manager for SMCMUD, said his organization is trying to keep the plant out of view as much as possible.

"We want to work with residents as best we can to move the entrance," he said.

On May 20, representatives of SMCMUD and residents of Oak Ridge Grove met to try to come to an agreement on the water well plant.

Councilman Peter Nett, who attended the session as a resident, said both parties showed good will in trying to come to an accord.

Advertisement



Send flowers for any occasion

Bouquets \$19.99
from ^{+s/h}

ProFlowers

Order ONLY at
proflowers.com/happy
or call 1-877-888-0688

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics**™



During the city council meeting, Nett said there is a major flaw in the discussions.

"We have a timeline to deal with," he said.

"Construction is slated to begin in 30 to 45 days. That doesn't give us much time to come to an agreement."

Both parties agreed to another meeting the following week.

"We need to button down everything," O'Connor said.

City Web site upgraded

Residents searching for information on the city's online site will notice a new, more appealing look.

The new format, which has been in the works for some time, was recently posted.

"We wanted our Web site to be more user friendly and more informative," Mendes said.

Advertisement



CASH4GOLD.COM
America's #1 Gold Buyer

1. Request Your Free Kit
2. Send Pre-paid Refiners Pak
3. Receive Cash in 24 Hours

Call 1-888-536-4404 www.Cash4Gold.com

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**