

FLOODPLAIN PERMIT COMMITTEE MEETING
225 N. Webster Ave, Development Center, Conference Room B
Monday, February 6, 2023
3:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT: Shawn O’Leary, Director of Public Works
Scott Sturtz, City Engineer
Jane Hudson, Director of Planning and Community Development
Lora Hoggatt, Planning Services Manager
Bill Scanlon, Citizen Member
Sherri Stansel, Citizen Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager
Amy Shepard, Staff
Todd McLellan, Development Engineer
Misty Lara, Permitting Specialist Plains All American
Carol Howard, Permitting Plains All American
Lollie Lenker, Resident

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Shawn O’Leary at 3:30 p.m.

Item No. 1, Approval of Minutes:

Six members of the committee were present, and Amy Shepard called roll. Mr. Ken Danner was absent. Mr. O’Leary called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 7, 2022. Ms. Sherri Stansel noted one correction to the attendance list from the minutes to add Mr. Todd McLellan. Mr. Scott Sturtz motioned to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Scanlon. Mr. Scanlon asked about the status of the Floodplain Permit Application #665 project. Mr. Jason Murphy said the project was approved at City Council and is moving forward. The minutes were approved 6-0.

Item No. 2, Floodplain Permit Application No. 666:

Mr. O’Leary said this application is for the excavation and replacement of an existing segment of the Cushing to Hewitt 16” gas pipeline in the Lower Little River floodplain. Mr. Murphy

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gave the staff report. Mr. Murphy said the Applicant is Plains All American Pipeline, LP and the Engineer is Environmental Solutions and Innovations, Inc. Mr. Murphy said there is an existing gas pipeline owned by the Applicant that is located ~0.42 miles west and ~1.0 mile south from the intersection of Alameda St. and 180th Ave. SE in the Lower Little River Floodplain south of Lake Thunderbird. Mr. Murphy said the dig site is located near an unnamed tributary of Roulette Creek. Mr. Murphy noted the original installation of this pipeline was granted a floodplain permit in 2016 (#573). Mr. Murphy said recent testing revealed a possible defect in the pipeline wall that requires repair. The repair is being done as a preventative action and not as an emergency action. Mr. Murphy reviewed aerial photos of the site and noted the floodplain footprint on the maps.

Mr. Murphy said according to the Applicant, the project will replace approximately 1150 feet of pipeline in the floodplain. Mr. Murphy said the ground will be cleared above the repair location in the pipeline right of way to allow the pipeline section to be replaced. Mr. Murphy said once the new pipe is installed, the excavated area will be backfilled using existing materials and returned to pre-activity conditions. Mr. Murphy said in the area below the stream bed, a 50 foot buffer will be maintained on either side of the channel and pipe will be installed using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and be 10 ft. below the stream bed. Mr. Murphy said no changes in elevation or contours are expected as a result of this project. Mr. Murphy reviewed a map of the project location and noted that this area is typically dry.

Mr. Murphy reviewed applicable ordinance sections for Floodplain Application No. 666 and verified all ordinance requirements have been met. Mr. Murphy said staff recommends that Floodplain Permit Application No. 666 be approved.

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Mr. O'Leary asked for comments or additions from the Applicant or Engineer. Ms. Carol Howard with Plains All American Pipeline noted for clarity that the pipeline is an oil pipeline. Mr. O'Leary asked for questions or comments from the committee. Mr. Sturtz recommended approval of Floodplain Permit Application No. 666. Mr. Scanlon seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the application 6-0.

Item No. 3, Miscellaneous Discussion:

- a) Mr. O'Leary said Mr. Murphy prepared the annual summary for the Floodplain Permit Committee in 2022. Mr. O'Leary noted 13 permits were issued in 2022. Mr. Murphy noted that during 2022, Norman had a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) with FEMA. Mr. Murphy said the results of that visit were very successful and a couple violations were identified. Mr. Murphy said notices were sent and violations have been resolved and are in compliance with the Floodplain Ordinance. Mr. Sturtz noted the improvement in our Community Rating System (CRS) rank. Mr. O'Leary said that improvement can reduce a resident's flood insurance by up to 20%. Mr. O'Leary said a focus of staff will be to continue to look for ways to improve that rating going forward. Ms. Stansel and Mr. Scanlon noted their appreciation for the projects Staff has identified and is working on to address flood risk in the City of Norman.
- b) Mr. Murphy said the Floodplain Committee Meeting for February 20, 2023 would be cancelled due to a lack of applications.

Item No. 4, Adjournment:

Mr. O'Leary called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Stansel motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Scanlon. The motion was approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

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