

### **WORKING SESSION - JULY 13, 1992**

The working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:35 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater.

#### **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Kirk D. Dodge, Nelson K. Meade, Kurt Zimmer, Peter Nicolas, Thais Anne Peterson, Robert Eckstein, Mayor Elizabeth S. Brater, 7.

**ABSENT :** Councilmembers Larry Hunter, Ann Marie Coleman, Peter Fink, Robert C. Grady, 4.

#### **GELMAN SCIENCES, INC. CLEAN UP PLAN**

A discussion was held with representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding the proposed Gelman Sciences, Inc. pollution cleanup plan.

Alan Howard, Chief of the Environmental Response Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, presented a brief overview of the current situation and stated that the MDNR is near to reaching agreement with Gelman Sciences, Inc. on a plan for remediation of the contaminated groundwater to the northeast of the plant site. Mr. Howard introduced Robert Reichel of the State Attorney General's Office who presented a legal history of the issues, and Denise Gruben, MDNR project manager, who presented an overview of the technical issues.

Mr. Reichel stated that the State's objective has been to compel the legally responsible party, Gelman Sciences, Inc., to undertake the cleanup work. Ms. Gruben distributed a report on the issues concerning the disposal options for the Evergreen Subdivision purge water and reviewed the following alternatives for the cleanup: 1) discharge into the City's storm sewer; 2) discharge into the City's sanitary sewer; 3) pump and haul; and 4) discharge into a dedicated pipeline. (Report on file in the City Clerk's Office)

Following the discussion, Mayor Brater stated that she would not favor the discharge of purge water into the storm sewer, and would like some kind of assurance that the City will not become a responsible party if the purge water is discharged into the sanitary sewer.

The Mayor referred to the June 15 communication sent to Mr. Howard stating that City

Council has a strong desire to move forward with the cleanup of contaminated groundwater, wetlands and soils, but has strong reservations about subjecting Ann Arbor citizens to the financial, environmental and legal risks associated with the discharge into the Allen's Creek Drain. The Mayor further stated that, in regard to the sanitary sewer, the City would need a formal written request from the Director of the MDNR to provide the City's assistance in implementing the cleanup plan. Ms. Brater asked that the letter adequately address concerns about future liability for discharging pollutants to the Huron River, State enforcement of the NPDES permit, and the potential impacts of the discharges on the City's sludge land application program.

The Mayor stated that Council will be working through the City Administrator to work out a process with the MDNR.

(Letter from Susan Little Sellenraad, 300 Linda Vista, representing the Northwest Ann Arbor Coalition of Neighborhoods, and additional signatures to the June 15 petition in opposition to using Ann Arbor sewers to discharge contamination were submitted and placed on file in the City Clerk's Office).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

W. Northcross  
Clerk of the Council

Janet L. Chapin  
Recording Secretary