

MINUTES

City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee

Monday, November 14th, 2016 – 5:30 PM

Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
Maurice Jones, Vice- Chair, Council Member
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Emory Owen, WWTP Director
Dennis Richardson, WTP Director
David Lutz, Public Works Director

Staff Present: Jill Murray, Deputy City Clerk

Others: Ray McCall

Media: Matt McGregor, Transylvania Times

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified.

Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2016 Meeting

Minutes were deferred to next meeting as they were not complete yet.

Water Treatment Plant Off-Stream Storage Proposal

Mr. Fatland explained that the consultants from the Resource Institute came out and made a presentation. Mr. Richardson further explained that the consultants would like to do site testing, geology and seismic testing and basically look underneath the soil to see what's there and see if it is capable of sustaining a basin. Mr. McCall added that they will look at soil conditions, how rocky it is, do some boring and soil testing and decide whether it can be turned into an off stream storage basin. The approximate cost of the feasibility study would be \$78,500.

In addition, Mr. Fatland stated that we currently take water out of Cathey's Creek but when it rains hard, that creek gets dirty and almost to a point where we can't deal with it and we have to treat it.

Sometimes, the creek has to settle before we can even handle it. The off-stream storage basin will help us to store clean water when the creek is running clear, then when we need it, it's available and ready to go. It can replenish our reservoir overnight. It won't help our capacity but it will help our quality and availability and provide a savings in chemicals.

Mr. Fatland added that our goal is to do this within the current year Water Treatment Plant's budget. If that cannot be achieved, then it will go through the Budget Amendment approval process and use the utility fund balance.

Mr. Richardson moved, seconded by Mr. Owen that the feasibility study be done to see if off-stream storage is a viable option. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Railroad Avenue Bridge Discussion

Mr. Fatland stated he met with CDM Smith on October 25th about options for the bridge and how we can get our costs down. Also, at the staff meeting with CDM Smith earlier today, we felt that options 1 and 2 were overdesigned and option 3 was not a good option. So we concentrated on options 4 and 5 which are both doable. If you build a pedestrian pathway on the bridge we'll get DOT funding. If we don't, we won't. Option 6 is like doing a culvert like Broad, but that's like doing a brand new design from scratch. Mr. Fatland added this his approach is to look at these options to save project costs and if we save the DOT money along with Brevard, we can negotiate this better. Option 6 is too much money to design it and get extra permit fees etc. I would like the Committee to give us direction to look at options 4 and 5 as I think 1, 2 and 3 are too expensive to pursue.

Mr. Lutz explained that by getting the bridge to a smaller size, it will fit into the community character.

Mr. McCall asked if this project is reimbursable by the State and Mr. Fatland said yes, currently the NCDOT was 80% DOT and 20% City. However, under the current MOU with NCDOT, the City is responsible for utility relocation costs since our population exceeded 5,000. They changed the rules effective January 1st of this year, that it's now increased to 10,000 so by going back and renegotiating the contract, NCDOT has verbally told us that we qualify for the 10,000 population now so all of our utility costs can be split over to NCDOT and so now we have an opportunity to maybe keep our original budget intact and then get a project that fits the community.

Mr. Jones stated that he wants to be sure that if/when the West Loop comes to fruition, that the bridge is not out of sorts with it and Mr. Morrow stated that he feels it should be two lane traffic.

Mr. Lutz added that when they come back with the numbers for 4 and 5, we can certainly have them propose that. Sugarloaf Road is what #5 would look like and Neely Road is close to what #4 would look like.

Mr. Fatland explained that he's asked CDM Smith to come up with revised costs of #4 and #5 and we would like to get them to pay for the bridge separately.

Mr. Lutz moved, seconded by Mr. Fatland that we approve to approach Council with this at the January meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting

No meeting was scheduled as of yet.

Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 6:07 PM

X 

Mac Morrow
Chair, Council Member

X 

Jill Murray
Deputy City Clerk