

MINUTES

City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee

Wednesday, September 12, 2019 – 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: Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Minutes from August 7, 2019 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Fatland to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Stormwater

Mr. Fatland said he wanted to have a general discussion about stormwater so that everybody is clear about what we currently do for stormwater and whether we need to make any changes in addressing stormwater complaints. He asked Mr. Lutz to explain what Staff is currently doing on stormwater and which facilities we do maintain and which we do not.

Mr. Lutz explained that what we currently maintain is what is in our right-of-way. If there is a deeded right-of-way across land, deeded stormwater ditch or stormwater conveyance, then we maintain it. If there is no right-of-way, we do not maintain it and we can't touch it because it is private property.

Mr. Lutz explained that there have been instances where property owners have partnered with the City in order to fix problems that were affecting multiple properties, but there have also been instances where private property owners refused to do that. Mr. Lutz said we have had a couple people sign a temporary easement and hold harmless agreements because they did not have the money to fix an issue that is affecting more than one property. He is recommending that we adopt some type of policy that gives us more clarity when dealing with stormwater issues that falls in line with our ordinance. His recommendation is as follows:

“All existing storm drainage systems or portions thereof, including but not limited to pipes and pipe culverts, reinforced concrete culverts, catch basins, drop inlets, junction boxes, ditches and natural drainage ways, located on private property shall be maintained by the property owner or his agent.

The City shall be responsible only for the portions of the drainage system which are in City maintained street rights of way and permanent storm drainage easements conveyed to and accepted by the City.”

Mr. Fatland pointed out that with new development we have our ordinance that address stormwater, however there is nothing that addresses current infrastructure. He said he understands the current position of the City, but it is frustrating when he or the Mayor get phone calls from a homeowner about stormwater pipes breaking on their property, and it is a huge pipe in their yard that is carrying stormwater from the neighborhood into another neighborhood, and then you have to tell them it's their problem. He recommended that we look at establishing a monthly fee for homeowners to go into a stormwater enterprise fund and work with these homeowners where they deed these structures over to the City for maintenance.

There was discussion about several areas within the City where there are stormwater issues. Mr. Morrow had some reservation about an enterprise fund but said it sounds like we have issues all over. He suggested that we need to prioritize the areas with perennial problems. Mr. Jones pointed out that there are some people who are not having a problem that would be paying this fee. He wondered if there could be some sort of combination of these ideas. Mr. Fatland suggested that we try to get the recommended policy adopted but continue discussion on some kind of hybrid method to address some of these issues. Motion by Mr. Fatland, seconded by Mr. Jones to refer the policy recommended by Mr. Lutz to the City Attorney for review. Motion carried unanimously.

E. WWTP Chlorine Tank Replacement

Mr. Owen explained that the State did an inspection of the Wastewater Treatment Plant last spring and they found that the tanks in the chlorine building do not meet specs because they are too thin. So as a safety precaution the State is requiring that we replace the tanks with double walled tanks or build a wall housing center inside that could support that much liquid. He said it is a lot cheaper to go with replacing the tanks than it is to build a wall that would hold that much. He got the estimate today, which came in at \$38,000 to change out the tanks.

Mr. Fatland asked if he can absorb this cost in the current budget or will we need to do a budget amendment later? Mr. Owen said things are pretty tight right now but it is very possible we could absorb it. Mr. Fatland suggested that we should proceed and then monitor the budget closely. Motion by Mr. Fatland, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve replacement of the tanks. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Set Date for Next Meeting

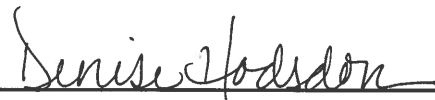
No date was set for the next meeting.

G. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.

X 
Maurice Jones
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: February 13, 2020

X 
Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant