

**MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
Work Session
March 30, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Brevard met in a scheduled work session on Monday, March 30th at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Jimmy Harris presiding.

Present: Mayor Jimmy Harris, Mayor Pro Tem Mac Morrow, Council Members Ann Hollingsworth, Maurice Jones, and Wes Dickson. Absent: Charlie Landreth

Staff Present: City Manager Joe Moore, Planning Director Josh Freeman, Director of Engineering and Utilities Jay Johnston, ORC of Wastewater Treatment Plant, Emory Owen and Finance Director Jim Fatland,

Media Present: Derek McKissock, Transylvania Times

Council was called to session at 5:38 P.M. Mayor Harris welcomed all present and asked Deputy Clerk Jill Murray to certify a quorum, which she did. Mr. Jones made the motion to accept the agenda as presented, which Ms. Hollingsworth seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Moore began by reading the overview of the Staff Report regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant and then recognized Jay Johnston to speak.

Mr. Johnston explained that we are all here tonight to loop back around on the retreat from January and began with a slide presentation. A complete copy of the materials and information provided to Council, staff and the press is on file.

Mr. Johnston proceeded to go over the timeline of the goings-on at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from December 2012 to the present.

At 5:51pm Mr. Landreth arrived to the work session.

Mr. Johnston also explained that although the loan from DENR seemed very sudden, it is because everything happened at once from the time he put our name in the hat for this "renovation" loan to the letter of intent we received offering to fund the project. He continued on with the difference between activated sludge and RBC's and the difference between the two.

Emory Owen explained that as bacteria are alive and healthy and get better clarity of the water. The RBC's are dead, they're rocks. The bacteria get in there and get compacted over many years and there's not a whole lot that you can do about it. You can drain the whole tank and start fresh if you wanted to. He stated that they reseed it 24/7 which keeps a good healthy mix.

Mr. Johnston explained that in theory if you deliver 100 gallons of water to a house every day, they'll flush 80 back to you. So if we make 1M gallons of water then we might expect to get .8 back at the plant.

Ms. Hollingsworth asked if Oskar Blues getting their pretreatment process help with some of the heavier loads?

Mr. Johnston stated that that last 20% is the buffer that keeps us from violating our permit and that any other industrial discharger would be subject to the same strict limits. He also stated that we cannot get direct replacements for what we have now. If one (RBC) breaks, we'll be down to 7/8 of our capacity. RBC failure cannot be fixed promptly and getting new ones is a process. It would be more like a capital project rather than something we could repair. He also stated that it could be a turnoff and

turn away opportunity if we do not have the capacity. Also, the commitments that we have currently made with Davidson River is more capacity that we have at the plant currently.

Mr. Morrow stated that there are industries that you have to be clear as to which ones you want and which ones you don't. I don't think it's fair to expect our small population to foot a bill for someone else's problems.

Mr. Landreth stated that our plant is at the end of its life and it is time to make these decisions. It's time to address the mechanical resources.

Mr. Johnston stated that the life span of the RBC's is 20 years. The City's were built in 1986.

Mr. Morrow stated that Asheville is still using them and making them work. He stated that he has seen where it's more expensive and where it's not and is interested in buying time and seeing what the real numbers are after Oskar Blues kicks in next year.

Mr. Fatland stated that in order to fund the sewer plant project we have to raise the meter fee to \$9.30 per month for every customer in the City for 20 years. That is what he would recommend to get it paid off.

Mr. Morrow added that that does not even get us additional capacity.

Mr. Jones wanted to know what activated sludge was chosen over other methods.

Emory Owen stated that Brevard used activated sludge technology in the past. RBC's was cutting edge technology. The City Manager and my supervisor at the time, made the decision to change to RBC's.

Mr. Landreth wanted to know what the likelihood of overlap is from that note to the new note when we do capacity. He stated that 10 or 15 years down the line, we're looking at an overlapping financing. He also stated that the City has undercapitalized our wastewater system and now we can't replace it without help. We need to think about future burdens on our city and future councils.

Mr. Morrow stated that it would have been helpful to have the packet of information ahead of time so he could come with questions.

After some more back and forth discussion, the Mayor asked if there were any more questions, with no further questions, a motion to adjourn was made and approved at 7:13 P.M.

Council then dismissed the Deputy Clerk and went into Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.

s/_____
Jimmy Harris, Mayor

s/_____
Jill Murray, Deputy City Clerk

Minutes Approved: May 18, 2015