

A Water/Sewer Committee Meeting of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in the conference room at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro-Tem James Collins, Council Members Benny Gray, David Tufts, and Terrell Fulford, City Attorney John Newberry, Assistant City Superintendent Frank Ross, Water Plant Operator Cheyenne Morgan, and City Clerk Cindy Yancey.

Guests: Matt Smith, Tom Sloope, Glenda Wood, Kathleen Mathews, John Wood, and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

Water/Sewer Committee Chairman Benny Gray called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

### **Water/Sewer Committee:**

- War Days - Water
  - Mayor Barbee spoke to Council about supplying water at the War Days event. Mr. Barbee stated that the City has done this in-kind every year.
  - Assistant City Superintendent Frank Ross confirmed that the City has done this for the event every year.
  - Mayor Barbee will have someone contact City Hall about getting it set up.
- Carter & Sloope – Project Update
  - Glover Lane Pump Station
    - Matt Smith with Carter and Sloope stated that the contractor L&L Utilities have been delayed up to this point but they are currently on sight.
    - Matt stated that Charlie contacted the contractors earlier in the month and reminded them that June 30, 2019 is the deadline for the project and liquidated damages up to \$500 a day can be incurred.
    - Matt stated that the pumps are scheduled to be delivered around the first or the middle of June. If everything is ready when the pumps arrive the contractor should still be able to finish on schedule.
    - Councilman Gray asked about the videoing that had been done on the sewer lines. Matt stated that the one of the lines was inaccessible at the time the videoing was being done. They were able to do the other line and Charlie Bridges has reviewed the portion pertaining the 2019 CDBG and submitted that report to DCA. Carter & Sloope review the rest of the video and submit a summary of things that need to be done to fix the line to the City.
  - Test Well
    - City Attorney Newberry stated that Jeff Collins purchased the Cecil property. Which was the first sight considered for the well.
    - Mr. Newberry stated that the property owner is concerned with what the chemical building for the well would look like. Charlie Bridges with Carter & Sloope is currently working on a drawing to present to the property owner. Mr. Newberry stated that Charlie is looking at not putting the building in the same location as the well and moving it more toward Woodland Rd which would move it further away from the property owners house.

- City Attorney Newberry stated that some of the neighbors of the property owner are concerned about the effect that the city well will have on their wells. Mr. Newberry said that it was his understanding the city well would be much deeper and would not affect the residential wells. Matt Smith confirmed that the city well would be much deeper and that there would also be a casing that would prevent it from pulling from the same fractures as the residential wells.
  - Councilman Gray asked about the price for the property. Mr. Newberry stated that he has not discussed price with the current property owner but that the owner was aware of what had been offered to the previous owner.
- WWTP – Upgrades
- Matt Smith stated that a pre-application had been submitted to GEFA in January of 2019. The scoring has come out and the city is not eligible for principal forgiveness based off of the criteria that GEFA looks at when doing the scoring.
  - Mr. Smith said the project has a cost estimate of 2.5 million dollars and the city has been approved for 100% loan with GEFA. He also stated that the City could consider other options like USDA or moving forward with the larger expansion of the plant. Mr. Smith stated that Mayor and Council would need to make a decision on how they wanted to proceed.
  - Mr. Smith said that the 2.5 million project includes rehabbing the existing plant, adding a filter system to the back end in order to take the plant from 400,000 GPD to 500,000 GPD. He stated that anything more that the additional 100,000 GPD would require a parallel plant.
  - The loan through GEFA would be for 30 years at a 2.6% interest rate and USDA would be for 40 years at a 4.25% interest rate. The USDA has a longer application process and the city would also incur additional expenses to meet USDA requirements. Tom Sloope said that more than likely the city would not be eligible for grant money with USDA.
  - Tom Sloope stated that the additional 100,000 GPD project would take about 1.5 years to complete. Mr. Sloope recommended that the city go ahead with additional 100,000 GPD project and then start immediately on an application for future GEFA money, USDA money for the larger expansion. Mr. Sloope stated that there was another funding option that he would like to explore. He stated that a private bank in North Carolina that is able to make 40 year loans available to municipalities and are able to turn an application around in 90 days. There would not be any grant money associated with the private bank it would be strictly loan.
  - Matt Smith stated that 2.5-million-dollar project would not be wasted if there was a larger expansion later because the larger expansion would be a parallel plant.
  - Councilman Gray asked how much lead way would the additional 100,000 GPD would give the City. Matt Smith stated that it depends on how much the City has already committed out and the new developments coming in.
  - Councilman Fulford questioned the timeline for the current expansion project. Mr. Smith stated that if they were to start now it would be about 1.5 years.
  - Tom Sloope stated that he would like to contact the bank in North Carolina to come and speak with Mayor and Council.
  - It was the consensus of Mayor and Council to proceed with the GEFA loan application for the current expansion project.
  - Councilman Fulford stated that the city needs to get an accurate update on the sewer commitments. City Attorney Newberry stated that he is not concerned about the older commitments since some of the properties have been foreclosed on or the property has been sold to someone else.

- Piedmont Water – Jones Mill (2inch tap)
  - The Middle Georgia Regional Commission is currently working on the service delivery strategy and will send it to County and City for approval.
  - City Attorney Newberry stated that normally anyone outside the city requesting service would sign a covenant to annex into the city. He feels that this situation is different since we are dealing with the water company and not the actual property owners.
  - Matt Smith asked if the current well system owner would be required to provide a one-year warranty to the city.
  - Water Treatment Plant Operator Cheyenne Morgan stated that unless something has changed that the city was supposed to set the meter at the end of our existing line at Henry Drive and Piedmont Water would be responsible for the 2inch line that would run down Huckabee Rd and 18. Mayor and Council agreed.
- 3987 Gray Highway
  - Councilman Fulford asked about the customer wanting to bore under Gray Highway to tap on to city water.
  - The City Clerk will contact the customer to discuss the access and tap fees.
- Councilman Gray asked Matt about getting maps of the sewer system. Matt stated that he would have some sent to City Hall.
- Tom Sloope invited Mayor and Council to the client appreciation dinner that will be held at the GMA conference in Savannah.
- Assistant City Superintendent Frank Ross asked about sewer for 315 Dolly St. The Health Department contacted the city about sewer availability at this location. The city currently has a small station at 312 Dolly St. serving that one address. Councilman Gray asked Matt if that station was able to serve two homes. Matt stated that he would need more information on the pump in order to answer the question. He will ride to area with Frank once the meeting is over. There was also a question on whether the pump station was located on the right of way or on private property.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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City Clerk