September 16, 2019 **Water/Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes** **10:05AM**

A Water/Sewer Committee Meeting of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Monday, September 16, 2019 in the conference room at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members Benny Gray, Terry Favors and David Tufts, Assistant City Superintendent Frank Ross, Water Treatment Plant Operator Cheyenne Morgan, City Clerk Cindy Yancey and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson.

Guests: Matt Smith, Charlie Bridges and Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*.

Water/Sewer Committee Chairman Benny Gray called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- TJ Heath - waterlines
  - Mr. Heath was not in attendance.

- Carter & Sloope – Matt Smith and Charlie Bridges updated Mayor and Council on the following projects:
  - Folds Drive Drainage Project
    - We are still waiting on one property owner to sign an easement to move forward with the project. Councilman Gray and Councilman Tufts will speak with the property owner and set up a meeting with Charlie Bridges and City Attorney Newberry.
  - Glover Lane Lift Station
    - The new lift station is almost complete. Georgia Power is scheduled to set up the power today so that it can be tested.
  - Test Well
    - The test well did not produce enough water to move forward with the project. WTP Operator Cheyenne Morgan said that it only produced 20 gallons per minute. He suggested instead of trying a test well to attempt digging deeper on a current well to see if production may go up.
  - Piedmont Lakes Lift Station
    - City Clerk Cindy Yancey mentioned that the Lift Station in Piedmont Lakes was never wired for the portable generator because at the time of the project the lift station did not belong to the City but now it does. Cheyenne Morgan will contact Keith Roberts to get a quote on wiring it since we have the parts to do so.
  - CDBG
    - The joint application for housing and sewer improvements was not approved. Linda Carroll will contact the City with information as to why it was denied.
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
    - Matt Smith asked for a directive from Mayor and Council as to which option they would like to move forward with regarding the WWTP Expansion.
      Option 1: expand to 0.50 MGD (add 100,000 gal/day) – cost $3,065,000
      Option 2: expand to 0.80 MGD (double current plant) – cost $5,330,000
      Option 3: expand to 1.00 MGD – cost $7,165,000
    - The consensus is to expand to 0.80 MGD which would essentially double the plant for a cost of $5,330,000.00. This will be added to the October Council agenda for a vote.

- Mr. Smith has reviewed funding options and suggests using GEFA which would be 2.67% interest for 30 years which would be $21,534.00/month = $258,408.00 annually.
- Engineer Matt Smith and City Clerk Cindy Yancey have reviewed the current Water/Sewer debts and in order to be able to afford the payments for the WWTP expansion, they have suggested paying off the current GEFA loan for the Belt Press by using the GEFA Reserve and the WWTP Expansion Fund. Also, they noted that the revenue bond on the Water Tank is scheduled to be paid off in 2021 which will also free up funds.
- Mr. Smith explained that even after paying off the debts, the rates need to be increased. He explained that this could be done over a period of three years and not all at once.
- Mr. Smith has reviewed the City's 2018 Audit and explained that a rate increase could help the Water/Sewer Department from operating at a deficit, as it did last year and in years past. Options for the rate increase include – (1) raising the base charge for both water and sewer $2.67 each, which would help the department overall or (2) raising the sewer base $7.00. The consensus of Council is to raise the base rate of both water and sewer over a three-year period. Mr. Smith will get together a plan and bring back to Council for review before any decisions are made.
- City Clerk Cindy Yancey stated that she would put approval to pay off the debts early on the October Council agenda.

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

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Assistant City Clerk