

A Water/Sewer Committee Meeting of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 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, Water Treatment Plant Operator Cheyenne Morgan, City Clerk Cindy Yancey and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson.

Guests: Charlie Bridges and Matt Smith with Carter & Sloope, Debbie Lurie-Smith, *The Jones County News*

Water/Sewer Committee Chairman Benny Gray called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

**Water/Sewer Committee:**

- Drainage Ross Street
  - Engineer Charlie Bridges explained that he met with DDA Chairman Sherri Rollins regarding the drainage on Ross Street surrounding Butler Hall. They have requested that he draw up a site plan and Mr. Bridges would like to know if this is something that the City would be paying for or if he should bill DDA. He was advised to bill DDA since it is their property. Councilman Tufts stated that DDA will be coming back to discuss financing for the Butler Hall project and this could be included in their request if needed.
- Drainage Jackson Heights
  - Engineer Charlie Bridges and City Attorney John Newberry explained that they are unsure if this project will help the one homeowner that is having the major issues. It was decided to bid the project out and once they have a cost estimate, they will determine whether or not to move forward.
- WWTP Expansion
  - Engineer Matt Smith updated Mayor and Council on the WWTP Expansion, he explained that the current project includes building a parallel plant just like the current one. Once the new one is built the current one will be rehabbed. This will allow the plant capacity to double from 400,000 MGD to 800,000 MGD. Mr. Smith explained that they decided on this option in order to save money by rehabbing the current facility instead of building a whole new facility which would be much more costly.
  - Mr. Bridges stated that while looking for infiltration issues is important there is no guarantee that enough will be found to make it where the new plant is not needed. His concern was that the City would spend a million dollars or more and still be in the same position, needing more sewer capacity.
  - Along with paying off the belt press and water tank, the City will have to raise water and sewer rates a total of \$12.72 over the next three years in order to be able to afford the loan payments for this project. This breaks down to a total of \$2.12 on water and on sewer base rates each year for 2020, 2021 and 2022.
  - This will be on the next Council meeting agenda for Council to vote on moving forward with this project at the current estimated cost of \$8,300,000.

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

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Assistant City Clerk