

A Water/Sewer Committee Meeting of the City of Gray, Georgia was held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 in the conference room at City Hall.

Present: Mayor Ed Barbee, Mayor Pro Tem James Collins, Council Members David Tufts and Terrell Fulford, City Attorney John Newberry, City Superintendent Frank Ross, Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan, Police Chief Adam Lowe, and Assistant City Clerk Ashley Roberson.

Councilman Tufts called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Water/Sewer Committee:

- Sewer moratorium
 - Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan explained that the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant has a capacity of 400,000 gallons per day. He stated that there is a capacity issue, and the plant is regularly going over the allocated flows per day. Mr. Morgan also stated that they are working on inflow & infiltration issues as they find them in hopes of helping the issue as best they can.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Collins suggests putting a sewer moratorium in place for 60 days, limiting taps to single family and essential business and no taps over four inches. He stated that there needs to be biweekly updates at the Council/All Committees Meetings by City Superintendent Frank Ross, Assistant City Superintendent Cheyenne Morgan and/or Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Jason Farmer. Then after 60 days Council should revisit it and decide whether it is necessary to extend it or not.
 - Councilman Tufts suggested 90-day moratorium and rescind it earlier if necessary.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that he disagreed, and he has concerns regarding a moratorium at this point. He asked Council what projects they knew of because he did not know of any large projects that would be coming in the next 60-90 days. He has concerns of the effect it will have and stated that once we put it in place we likely wouldn't be able to lift it until the sewer plant expansion is complete.
 - Chief Lowe commented that his concern is that there is no capacity even after the new plant expansion and the I and I repairs.
 - Councilman Fulford asked if it was too late to rescind the capacity letter to Dulles Park due to all of the sewer line and I and I issues we are finding along with the EPD consent order. City Attorney Newberry stated that he believes a second letter should be sent with the explanation of sewer issues and limited availability.
 - Chief Lowe stated that his concerns had nothing to do with the multifamily housing, just the overall state of the sewer capacity.
 - Mayor Barbee asked if we should declare this an emergency to help speed up the bid/quote process for sewer repairs.
 - Assistant City Superintendent Morgan stated that if it is declared a state of emergency by City Council and documented in the minutes then the local bid laws can be temporarily amended. He stated that the State bid laws are anything over \$100,000.00 must be bid out. Currently, the City's bid policy is anything under \$50,000.00 there must be three quotes, anything over \$50,000.00 must be sealed bids.
 - City Attorney Newberry stated that he believes it would be a good idea to temporarily amend the bid policy for projects that are I&I related. There will be a Special Called Council Meeting immediately following the All Committees Meeting on April 19th to approve the temporary amendment to the bid policy.
 - Councilman Tufts stated that it seemed the consensus is to not move forward with a moratorium at this time as recommended by legal counsel. Councilman Fulford agreed that it is not time to start the moratorium. Mayor Pro Tem Collins stated that he feels differently and thinks a moratorium would be proactive step to take.

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

Assistant City Clerk