

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

August 17, 2010

3:20 P.M.

Councilwoman Ladd, Chairman, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order, with Councilmen Rico, Scott, Berz, Gilbert and Benson present. Councilmen Murphy and McGary joined the meeting later. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Richard Beeland, Danny Thornton, Dan Johnson, Chief Parker, Steve Leach, Gary Hilbert, Lee Norris, Dennis Malone, Bill Payne, Dickie Hutsell, Larry Zehnder, Daisy Madison, Donna Kelley, Jim Templeton, Karen Rennich, Greg Haynes, Rick Tate, Mike Patrick and Jerry Stewart.

Chairman Ladd stated that there would be a presentation on the power outage that happened last week at the end of the meeting. She turned the meeting over to Adm. Leach.

Mr. Leach noted that at tonight's meeting there would be a Special Presentation for ADM Southern Cellulose, the recipient of the "Pretreatment Excellence Award".

Resolution (e) on tonight's agenda is an agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc. for professional services relative to Contract No. E-028-304, Hamill Road Improvements Phase 3 and 4, in the amount of \$24,999.00. M. Leach explained that this is really control testing and verification to make sure we are within specifications; that this is a third party testing service. Mr. Malone added that it is material and geo-technical services; that they will be testing the soil and strength of materials. Councilwoman Scott asked if this was in the same road as the assessment of roads? Mr. Payne explained that it was density testing. Mr. Malone mentioned two ft. cuts, noting that this was sloppy soil and undermines the whole road. Adm. Leach added that there is a lot of drainage and poor soil, and we want the road to stay for a long time.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR AUGUST 24, 2010

Ordinance 6(a) First Reading amends the Code in relation to Sewers, Mains and Drainage and is a change to the Pre-Treatment. Mr. Stewart added that this is driven by EPA and will be more industrial-friendly; this is in consultation with the NPDES request to reduce the regulatory burden on industries without a negative impact on the environment. It will clarify the use of Best Management Practices and will allow us to deal with on-site facilities and allow us to use new water conservation, and it clarifies definitions. Rick Tate added that it gives more flexibility and is user-friendly; that there are no negatives. Councilwoman Scott asked if there was any paperwork with this? Attorney McMahan responded that there was no backup paperwork other than the

Ordinance. Mr. Stewart asked if she would like to see the changes, and she responded “yes”. Ms. Scott stated that she had talked with several industries who have permits, and they complained that they have to monitor their own water—that what they monitor is specific to their industry, but some of these have multiple acres of land, and they are not monitoring for E-Coli.

Mr. Leach responded that this is sewer and not Water Quality; that the pipes are coming from the Industry, and it is our responsibility. Mr. Stewart confirmed that this is not related to Water Quality. Councilwoman Scott asked if it had nothing to do with toilets? Mr. Stewart explained that it was pharmaceuticals, etc. and was dictated by EPA—that it had no impact on Water Quality.

Councilman Benson stated that the Manufacturing Association is accepting this and asked if it would be more than industry and include neighborhood swimming pools? Mr. Stewart responded “no”.

Chairman Ladd stated that we could hardly wait for the Public Hearing.

Ordinance (b) is an abandonment for Dale Darby of a portion of a 30 foot sewer line easement located in the 5500 Block of Cassandra Smith Road subject to certain conditions. They are going to relocate the sewer. Mr. Malone explained that they are re-subdividing a new subdivision and will re-run the remaining sewer down the proposed road system to free up lots at their own expense.

Resolutions (a), (b) and (c) will be discussed next week.

Resolution (g) authorizes the acceptance of a donation of property near the Hamill Road crossing from Tommy Austin. This is free stormwater retention. Mr. Payne explained that this does flood and allows us to hold the property for a community detention area. Councilwoman Scott asked if there was a lease? Mr. Stewart explained that this was a straight donation of property. Councilman Murphy asked if it would be any deeper and was told that it would stay as it is. Chairman Ladd mentioned heavy rains behind the single story commercial condos and asked if there would be any corrective action for this? Mr. Malone confirmed that it would not include Abba’s House.

Resolution (h) authorizes Parks and Recreation to acquire Tatum Park from Tennessee Temple University for a consideration of \$205,000 plus closing costs. Mr. Leach asked if there were any further questions on this?

TRASH PICK-UP

Chairman Ladd stated that she thought there were to be some folks present interested in trash pick-up.

Councilman Benson stated that people in Drake Forest were upset concerning 311 calls and Trash Pick-Up; that they saw trucks come by and leave piles next door to them. He wanted to know how this program was working and if it were saving the City money?

Chairman Ladd mentioned that there might need to be an instructional meeting.

Mr. Templeton asked if these people were calling 311? Councilman Benson stated that they were calling, but they could not make their neighbors call. He stated that they wanted to go back to once a month pick-up, and he wanted to know if our present practice was saving us money? Mr. Templeton responded that it was saving money—about a million dollars a year.

Chairman Ladd stated that these people should invite Public Works' people to their neighborhood meeting—that it would help volumes.

PRESENTATION ON POWER OUTAGE

Adm. Leach stated that we would have a Special Presentation on what happened at Brown's Ferry Marina and the outage at the Main Treatment Plant; that we had a storm with 23 tree calls that was very severe; that people lost lights, and there were other issues. He stated that Mike Patrick was also here to help with an explanation as to what happened and our response. He turned the meeting over to Jerry Stewart.

Mr. Stewart stated that on August 5th and 6th we had most intense lightening and a storm; that the location hit was the Tiftonia Pump Station, where the overflow was the most significant—that we had never seen this before. He went over sample points. He proceeded to go over the timeline, stating that at 5:55 p.m. we had a major power outage at Moccasin Bend; that at 6:30 p.m., an alarm came in about the Tiftonia Pump Station; that there was an overflow at 7:00 p.m. that afternoon; that they had crisis and chaos at Moccasin Bend—that it was one and one-half hours before power was restored and folks were working all night until 6:00 a.m.; that at 7:00 one of the ladies at Waterfront Drive told them that an overflow was occurring and the power was out, and they contacted EPB; that they had a portable generator by 8:30 and by 8:45, the power was restored by EPB; that only one transformer was knocked out; that they were totally unaware of the Marina until Sunday at 2:00; that Rick Tate received a phone call; that Mike Patrick was working with issues and at 4:00 it was wrapped up, and they called TDEC and a clean-up company; that they worked all day Monday cleaning up the Marina and many fish were killed; that a Pump Co. was called on Tuesday with an aerator to this Marina area; that at

12:00 noon, they initiated samplings and at 7:00 Wednesday, got the pump set up; at around 3:00, they started pumping into the sewer; that in three days' time, this was over; that they initiated daily sampling for pumping and aeration; that on Friday, they purchased pond aerators; that they continued on and continued on; that the outage was caused by lightning striking and the outage caused the overflow—that at first their best guess was 100,000 gallons. He stated that this lasted 14 hours; that EPB was unaware of the outage; that there were two drainage areas with water going in and out. He reiterated that this had never overflowed before. He stated that they continued to have contact with TDEC and were adding an additional Pump Station Operator. The cost of the clean-up was \$5,773; the pump cost was \$8,000; \$3,708 was the cost for three aerators. He stated that the labor cost was to be calculated, and there will also be a penalty cost. He then went over oxygen levels, stating that they were almost at saturation. He went over lab results of E-Coli, which was high, but it was coming down; that it needs to get to a certain level to meet recreational levels.

He reiterated that they were totally unaware of the small marina overflow. He showed pictures of a loosely bolted manhole. He showed a picture of the aerator at the Marina on Wednesday and showed the pond aerator. He showed pictures of fish returning and ducks returning.

He next addressed the telephone situation, stating that there were a lot of questions as to whether they are in the telephone book. He mentioned the blue pages and the listing of Wastewater Plant; that he even checked with WWTA to see if anyone called them, and they had had no calls. He stated that he did not know who the people called; that the Health Department contacted them on Sunday.

Councilwoman Scott responded to the phone call issue. She asked if the Sanitation Dept. has someone answering the phone 24-7? Mr. Stewart responded “no”—that Sanitary Sewer has someone.

Councilman Murphy asked about SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) for alarms?

Mr. Stewart responded that they were trying to get the main plant back up, and they overlooked the alarm.

Councilman Murphy asked if this SOP was in the manual? Mr. Stewart responded that it would be in the manual. Councilman Murphy asked if there was any training relating to the SOP Manual? Mr. Stewart responded that there was not a specific Manual. Councilman Murphy asked if one could see something in the Manual about SOP's and was told “no”. Councilman Murphy pointed out that every time they “goof” up, it costs ratepayers thousands of dollars and asked why there was not an SOP Manual? Mr. Stewart responded that there was some sort of Sewer Plan and overages will be put in there.

Councilman Murphy stated that the outage could have been fixed in two hours if they had responded to the signal; that if this overflow had lasted just two hours, it would have been less than 50,000 gallons.

Councilman Benson stated that he thought if there was a power outage that EPB could immediately let us know. Councilman Murphy stated that they were not at that point yet. Councilman Benson stated that we own EPB, and we should be able to get them to work closer with us. Mr. Stewart stated that EPB does a good job; that they are going to put this on fiber.

Councilwoman Scott stated that this was in her district, and the community is upset about the delay in getting this stopped; that they made efforts to notify the City, but the answer they got was to call back during business hours; that a lot of people don't know about 311 or even think about it; that she would like to know if they called any of the phone numbers if there would be an answering machine? Mr. Stewart responded that he did not have an answering machine. She asked if there was not an emergency number for all unmanned phones? Mr. Stewart responded that the emergency number was 311. Councilwoman Scott stated that they kept getting the wrong number and were desperate; that in an after-hours situation, there should be something on the message saying if this is an emergency call "this number"—that this should be true of every city department.

Mr. Payne stated that they had the same thing with Water Quality; that 311 does stop and start, but they do have an answering service referring to City Yards, the Fire Dept., Police Dept., whomever needs to assess the problem, and the protocol; that someone could have gotten them, and the call did not get assessed properly.

Councilwoman Scott verified that 311 is 24 hours but is limited after hours; that her question is if they call any department for whatever reason, and it is after business hours, there should be a link to tell them to call 311 if this is an emergency.

Mr. Payne responded that the old telephone numbers automatically go to 311, but the new ones go into voice mail; that if it is a true emergency, people call 911.

Mr. Stewart stated that his number was 757-5026, and it had not changed in all the years he had been here—that it is 24 hours a week and 311 for emergencies; that if they called Sanitation, they call the County.

Councilwoman Scott stated that the community has asked for a meeting and asked for the Mayor to be present. She asked if there were any plans to do this and if anything had been set up to go over this with them? Mr. Stewart stated that he had talked to Mr. Clayton. Councilwoman Scott stated that this was people in the community, around the Marina and the adjacent subdivision. Mr. Stewart stated that they had been out there, and the people were very cooperative in getting this resolved. She asked if anyone had told Mr. Clayton about a meeting, and the answer was “no”. Adm. Leach stated that the Mayor’s office would handle such a meeting. Mr. Stewart continued to say that they explained things to these folks everyday, and they commented on the good quality of the water.

Councilman Murphy stated that Adm. Zehnder would find this hard to believe, but that he had been the director of a Recreation Center, and they had an SOP Manual; that it seemed to him that TDEC would smile on us if we had such a manual; that the treatment plant was way more complicated than a swimming pool. Mr. Stewart stated that in some ways a swimming pool was harder than the Wastewater Plant. Councilman Murphy advocated a clear, neat manual with every conceivable contingency—that EPB was not on line yet; that right now we “flag” a problem and nothing happens. Mr. Stewart stated that they were working on the main Wastewater Plant—that it was down and that was their sole purpose. Councilman Murphy asked if they would be adding people. Mr. Stewart stated they were adding a guy in the control room—that Councilman Murphy’s point was well taken.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.