

Dunn City Council
Special Called Meeting
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
6:00 p.m., Dunn Municipal Building

Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor William P. Elmore Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Dr. David L. Bradham, Council Members J. Wesley Sills, April Gauden, Frank McLean, and Chuck Turnage. **Absent:** Billy N. Tart

Also present: City Manager Steven Neuschafer, Assistant City Manager Mathew Boone, Public Utilities Director Heather Adams, Administrative Support Specialist II Debra Creighton, City Attorney Tilghman Pope, and City Clerk Tammy Williams.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Mayor Elmore opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m., gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked everyone to remember Council Member Tart, who is not here due to the loss of his mother.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

Discussion of Proposed Wastewater Projects and/or to Consider Additional Alternative Wastewater Projects for Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and to Provide the Authorization to Request this Funding

Planning Director Adams updated Council on where we stand on the sewer moratorium and Special Orders by Consent (SOC). Michael Goliber with DMP reviewed the Four Phased Approach to address the Wastewater System needs to include 1) Wastewater Collection System Rehabilitation, 2) Black River WWTP Internal Rehabilitation, 3) Black River WWTP Effluent Conveyance and 4) Highway 301 Corridor Improvements. He reviewed the various projects and the timelines as established by the funding agency. He also reviewed the flow of the collection system. He reviewed the Collection System Rehabilitation projects which brings the total of approved and funded projects to \$11.7 million. Plus the additional project discussed with USDA would bring the total of rehab work to \$19.3 million over the next couple of years. City Manager Neuschafer pointed out that this portion is the Lines and Manholes in the ground.

Mike Slusher with DMP reviewed the WWTP Internal Rehabilitation Project, including the facility's age and various projects previously completed. He then updated Council on the two projects being proposed for ARPA funds, the Effluent project at \$16,100,000 and the Highway 301 Corridor Improvements project at \$15,850,000. The first project includes installing a parallel effluent force main from the Black River WWTP to the Cape Fear River and effluent pump station improvements to increase pumping capacity and to eliminate the overflows on the Black River Outfall Line. The second project would be to construct a new outfall line from Machine & Welding to the WWTP, upgrade Eastside Pump Station, reroute the Eastside Force main to the new outfall line, and eliminate the Machine & Welding Pump Station. This improvement will increase the pumping and capacity at the Eastside Pump Station and the Black River Outfall Line. Goliber reviewed other options with estimated cost. These projects would both benefit outflow but the Highway 301 Corridor option is less disruptive and will be more beneficial for future growth. The \$30,450,000 is 100% grant with no city match and the City could use the American Rescue Plan funds allocated by the Federal Government last year of 1,540,000 and the same in this year to cover the balance of the expenses, also 100% grant. *The slide presentation is incorporated into these minutes as Attachment #1.*

Adams updated council on SOC meeting held Thursday. They were not interested in just the line rehab but felt the other two projects would be beneficial and they would be willing to negotiate an SOC with these proposed projects. As we move forward with these projects, we can negotiate additional flow that will allow for growth. It is highly unlikely, the city will get out of the moratorium until all projects are complete. Adams stated the easements could slow us down a bit but the city plans to move full speed ahead. Mayor Pro Tem Bradham asked what if someone does not want to grant the easement. Attorney Pope stated that the property will have to be condemned and that it is not a lengthy process. Economic Development Growth concerns were discussed and various options when bringing in an industry with the need for large sewer capacity.


Goliber added that ARPA funds have to be obligated by 2024 and expensed by 2026. Mayor Elmore stated that it is important that we move as fast as we can so additional available funds can be used for future projects.

After additional discussion, motion by Council Member Turnage and second by Council Member McLean to support the two sewer projects proposed by staff and DMP and using the \$30,450,000 from the ARPA to fund the projects facilitating increase flow allocations as the projects are in progress and supporting lifting of the sewer moratorium by 2026 when the funds must be spent. **Motion unanimously approved.** *A copy of the Resolution (R2022-01) is incorporated into these minutes as Attachment #2.*

Mayor Elmore stated that staff needs to work on a process for allocating available taps with arranged timetables to developers.

With no further business to discuss, motion by Council Member McLean and second by Council Member Sills to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. **Motion unanimously approved.**

Attest:


 Tammy Williams, CMG, NCCMC
 City Clerk




 William P. Elmore Jr.
 Mayor