

JOINT MEETING of CITY COUNCIL & GENERAL AUTHORITY
April 1, 2015

City Council

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor
Samuel Lyons
Garnet Wood

Members Excused: Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor
James Marshall
Ryan Rudegear

Members Absent: Jennifer Morris

General Authority

Members Present: Ann Rudegear, Vice Chairperson
Robert Hoffman
Erik Johnson
Timothy Lyons
John Neidich
Martin Rudegear

Members Excused: Robert Finch, Chairperson

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor
Jim Greenfield, Authority Solicitor
Al Wodzianski, P.E.
Tom Thompson, P.E., Gannet Fleming
Mark Breene, WWTP Supervisor
Jeff Hawke, WWN Supervisor
David Lord, 407 Forest Lane
Darla Hawke, City Recording Secretary
Loretta Siegel, Authority Recording Secretary
Sheila Boughner, Venango Newspapers, Inc.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 55

Mayor Baker moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSS PURPOSE OF MEETING

Mrs. Jamieson noted that this meeting would act as a “kick-off” meeting between City Council and the General Authority. Her hopes were to begin the process of determining what projects need done and to identify which are the highest priority. Mr. Greenfield explained that, under the terms of the sewer lease agreement, City Council must pass a resolution identifying the projects it wants done and then direct the Authority to carry them out.

PROJECTS REVIEW

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Mr. Breene, WWTP Supervisor, reviewed a list of improvements needed at the plant. They included a complete equipment installation in aeration tanks conversion from mechanical to diffused air aeration, which is currently under contract with Kranick, including repair/replace structural steel with hot dip galvanized steel and delete steel painting; a new roof for the sludge storage shed; replacement of raw sewage pumps and other improvements currently under contract to Whalen; structural rehabilitation of the circular primary clarifier, sludge thickener and chlorine contact tank; a new sludge press or centrifuge; upgrade grit chamber; the addition of a new septage station; an addition to the maintenance shop; a SCADA system to provide 24/7 system control/data acquisition; a backup generator; and the insertion of a liner to the existing storm sewer and relief storm sewer around the plant. In addition, he advised that the department vehicles escrow account had been eliminated from the budget. This line item had been used to replace vehicles, which will need to be replaced in the near future. Mr. Wodzianksi, P.E., estimated the costs for the needed upgrades at \$2.5 million.

Wastewater Network (WWN)

Mr. Hawke, WWN Supervisor, advised that the collection system is pretty much shot and noted a list of needed repairs to the aging sewer lines, throughout the system, has been projected at \$1.4 million. When asked which lines needed to be fixed first, Mr. Hawke reported that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would like the City to concentrate on the watershed areas of the CSOs. He also noted another priority would be to replace a brick sewer pipe, which is collapsing, under the parking lane on Liberty Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.

However, the 13th Street Siphon, which carries waste from Third Ward, Oak Hill, Sugarcreek and part of Rocky Grove, across French Creek, using three pipes is of vital importance. He reported one of the pipes is permanently plugged and should something happen to one of the other two, the flow would be so great as to cause possible sewer back-ups in the streets and in homes, causing both safety and health issues.

DISCUSS PRIORITIES & TIME FRAMES

Concerning the 13th Street Siphon Project, before a replacement can be designed, the engineers must first determine what the flow will be and how much the interceptors and the treatment plant can handle. Mr. Wodzianski reported that the Authority is presently reviewing a proposal from Gannett Fleming for the development of a computer model that will allow the engineers to project the flows and predict problem areas for this project. The proposal includes two options, one for a full computer modeling at a cost not to exceed \$66,000 and a second one, without a full hydrological model, for \$40,800. The modeling project would take approximately nine months to complete.

Mr. Wodzianski insisted that, until the costs of the 13th Street Siphon Project are estimated, it would not be possible to come up with a bond figure amount. However, Mr. Spaid, Esq., advised that the bond environment is still fairly favorable and encouraged the group to get the project list together soon, rather than wait for nine months on the 13th Street Siphon Project. He noted, by mid-to-late summer, the interest rates could be higher. Mr. Hoffman advised that like a lot of other municipalities, the City is faced with an antiquated infrastructure, and agreed that they need to move forward on a priority list before they have quotes on the 13th Street Siphon Project. Mayor Baker requested that staff present an updated project list to the Council, in the not too distant future, for approval.

POSSIBLE FUNDING SCENARIOS

It was noted that the City of Meadville has established a Stormwater Program and User Fee to create a dedicated funding source for the operation and maintenance of the City's extensive stormwater infrastructure. All developed parcels in the City are required to pay the fee, which is based on the impervious coverage of the parcel.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Darla Hawke, Recording Secretary