

**Minutes
PW Committee
May 4, 2015
6:00 PM
1st committee meeting**

Members present were Chairman Larry Goodson, Committee members Bob Cook and Dale Black. PW Director Mike Lambert and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.

1. Call to order.- Chairman Goodson
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and approval of minutes- Councilman Cook made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Reports or communications from city officers
 - a. Budget report- Mike reported the budget is tracking well. All departments are meeting the ideal remaining percentage. Equipment has been ordered from the capital fund and delivery should be soon.
Councilman Black asked about the sewer 970 account. Mike said Frazier has a contractor lined up to do some right of way work at Coca Cola. That will start soon, but there has not been an expenditure. A pickup has been ordered for \$30,000 in a 970 account. Councilman Black asked about the sewer repair and maintenance budget line. It is over. Mike said the sewer cameras have been giving us trouble. Councilman Black asked if the people were qualified to operate it, or if it is wear and tear. Mike said wear and tear has been taking its toll. Trey said they are about 7 years old.
Chairman Goodson said there is a heavy cable hooked on a fiber optic connection. He asked Mike if the new equipment has been changed. Mike said the newer units have been corrected. They were lowering it and raising it by the cable and that was tearing them up. Chairman Goodson asked Mike to look into how the newer units are raised and lowered.
5. Unfinished business.
 - a. Sewer salaries- Trey said sewer salaries were discussed in March at the

committee meeting and at the April 20th budget workshop. We have been cross training to handle jobs where they are needed. Staff thinks we can eliminate one position from the sewer budget and still get by. Chairman Goodson asked Mike if one person was in the office and keeps track. Mike said yes, Jim Alford is primarily in the office, but does go out in the field when needed. Three are in the sewer division, Joey Phillips, who is a supervisor, splits his time between sewer and street, and the streets division positions do 40% of their work in the sewer division.

Chairman Goodson said he would like to hold the sewer as low as possible with the least staffing. He said he talked to Trey about this. He does not want money split up between departments. If there are four people, he wants four people charged to the department. Councilman Cook asked what if we took some to do away with the 40% and have it all 100% sewer. Trey said if we were to add specifically sewer employees only and then let them do work in other departments, then you would have to add more street employees. A lot of the employees are cross trained and that is more cost effective. He said as long as we can illustrate the percentages, we can tell what the sewer is funding. The cross training is very efficient and the most cost effective way to provide service.

Chairman Goodson said there are months that have less cleaning and cameraing, but he wants sewer committed for forty hours a week. He wants employees who are focused solely on sewer. Councilman Cook said Mike and Trey might be able to get some options on this. Trey said as we get the sewer bond project underway, there will be monthly meetings. We can provide more detail. Trey said we are tracking exactly what is getting done in sewer, so there is more accountability and increased productivity. Some months are slower than others, but our public works staff has accomplished more for our sewer system.

Chairman Goodson said the last two hires did not have experience and that shows him that the department is not going in the direction it should.

Chairman Goodson said a special committee meeting could be called to discuss this. He wants to improve each year and for Mike to demand new equipment because we have used the old to death by cleaning three days a week. Chairman Goodson said he would like to meet with just Trey and Mike. Councilman Black said those that pay the sewer fee pay sewer and taxes. He wants the sewer fund to be separate. We bought stuff out of the sewer budget that is used at the street department. If I am paying a sewer fee, I am also paying for streets and it should not be that way.

- b. Park improvements- The PW and Rec committees met and Chairman Goodson asked if we can move the park repairs to council for approval. Councilman Cook made a motion to move this to council. Councilman Black asked where the figures came from. Trey said they are estimates. If this is approved, we will get bids. Chairman Goodson asked if a general contractor would do all of the work. Trey said we will put it out to bid where people can bid on all or pieces of it. We can pick the best of all of them. Springfield Park will get a improved parking lots, a football concession stand, fencing, upgrades to lighting and nice bathrooms. Football is a very important part of our Recreation program. Councilman Black asked if GCRA has been contacted regarding handicapped restrooms. Trey said he has talked to Martin on this and will follow-up with him if this is approved by council.

Councilman Black seconded the motion to send this to council.

Councilman Black asked that we check on fencing for foul balls. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

6. New business.

- a. Sewer agreement- In November, an engineer approached the city about a development that would need a lift station. REWA will not accept discharge from a private entity, so we would have to own it. Trey said he talked to the engineer in November and said we might be able to do this as long as our rate payers do not see an increased cost. The City Attorney wants added that the City will inspect as this is installed. We

have not received a final draft of the agreement. Chairman Goodson said this was like accepting roads in a subdivision. Trey said that was a good analogy. We have three sewer lift stations that we contract out now. We would add it to our list for them to maintain. Councilman Black asked why a diesel generator was needed. There is commercial power. Trey said it is a back up only. Councilman Black asked how the other lift stations are powered. Mike said there is a generator for back up. Councilman Black asked how much we are paying for maintenance of the three lift stations. Mike Lambert said it is \$1200 a month for the three stations. Councilman Black asked what the turn around was if there is a failure. Trey said an alarm goes off and they get someone out there right away. We are contracting with a good company with a good track record. They maintain the stations regularly. Mike said there is a truck at Donaldson Center. Mike said he is comfortable with the new company.

Councilman Cook asked if we could exert some leverage and make them zone it R15. Trey said we could get some legal advice on that.

Councilman Cook made a motion to send this item to council with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

- b. Sunset Park grounds- Councilman Goodson asked about the soccer fields at Sunset Park. In July, we can isolate the field, plug, seed and top dress it to make it look better.

7. Public Comment-

Leo Joyce: 20% of Street people are helping out in the sewer? 80%? I just want to know that as long as one group is the same grade or higher, they can work sewer. If it is lower, you might have a problem.

Trey Eubanks: They are similar grades.

Dean Kirkland: When you shift the people, are they getting paid equally?

Trey Eubanks; They are getting paid their salary. Each division has a list of personnel in their budget.

Dean Kirkland: Are they getting the same pay?

Trey Eubanks: They are getting their salary.

Dean Kirkland: Then they are not getting the same pay. You can't show partiality. If you send me to do a job and you pay him more, that is partialities. I am not trying to argue.

Chairman Goodson: That part is not the issue.

Dean Kirkland: Are you aware that there are people working over a year with no review?

Trey Eubanks: That is not factual. This is not the place for personnel issues.

That is not factual. I have records. This is a personnel matter.

Dean Kirkland: They work here. You got your evaluation. Was it timely? I am talking about Public Works.

Councilman Cook: You and the administrator can talk about it.

Dean Kirkland: You don't want me to bring in witnesses.

Trey Eubanks: You bring in all the witnesses you want, I have paperwork. I know what I am talking about.

Dean Kirkland: Dale Black will meet him. This is not the first time he has called me a liar.

Chairman Goodson: We have to be careful on this. We should discuss this in another forum.

Dean Kirkland: I am willing to... the City of Mauldin comes to my house and attacks me... Is this personal? We approached him about the palm tree on February on why we contracted a sewer job, I can't figure that out. They won't answer me. Why did we source it out? He said we couldn't hire people. 30,000 people we couldn't give them work?

Chairman Goodson: This puts us in a position to take care of our worst problems first. Hopefully we won't have to do any more outsourcing.

Dean Kirkland: 3.2 million, I think. It can be verified. The interest rates are going down. We are going to be bankrupt.

Councilman Cook: How much is in our fund?

Trey Eubanks: \$6.8 million. Standard and Poors ranks us as A1 and AA from Moody's. We had another good audit this year. We are not having financial problems. We have 51% coverage.

Dean Kirkland: Simplicity is genius. Let me tell you about genius. Every time I see a Down Syndrome child it hurts my heart. Has anyone done anything about lifting the garbage cans?

Chairman Goodson: I am willing to meet with you one on one at length to talk with you about all this.

Dean Kirkland: Thank you. That is fair. I am free, you are free. I am free!

Councilman Cook: I move to adjourn.

Dean Kirkland: Whoa, wait. Are we done? Other meetings? I am learning.

8. Committee concerns.
9. Adjournment.- Chairman Goodson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk

NOTICE: A majority or quorum of City Council may attend a committee meeting