

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 22, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Breunig, due to the excused absence of Committee Chairman Dave Gough, at 6:30 PM. Present at roll call were: Cindy Corley, John Sonsalla, Steve Pickett and Erin Gallagher. Excused absence: Dave Gough and Don Osterday. Also present were: Jeremy Williams, Bart Nies of Delta 3 Engineering, Inc., Brian Lund and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Sonsalla second by Gallagher that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Pickett second by Corley to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Under new business, Jeremy Williams and Bart Nies updated those present on a water quality trading plan they have been working on with four area property owners north of town. Bart then distributed a handout to those present at this meeting. Bart explained this plan is a result of the DNR's requirement for the City's wastewater treatment plant to meet its new total phosphorus concentration limit of 0.1 mg/L by June 30, 2020. Bart and Jeremy explained this proposed plan is the fifteenth option they have considered over the past several months; to come up with this recommendation. It's also the most cost effective option.

The initial phase of the water quality trading plan involves approximately 7200 feet of streambank stabilization on lands owned by Dennis Crist and Homer Evenstad north of Darlington. If additional steps are needed to reach the lower phosphorus concentration limit; production area practices will be completed on property owned by Dennis Crist, Travis Crist and Ray Scott. Bart Nies then reviewed several pages of the water quality trading plan handout. Several questions were asked regarding the proposed plan. Bart stated the proposed plan needs to be submitted to the DNR by August 31, 2018. If the proposed plan is approved, the next step is to have representatives of Delta 3 Engineering Inc., design the streambank stabilization project, calculate a cost estimate, seek cost sharing from Lafayette County and DNR; and put the project out for bid. The construction work will be done in 2019. Bill McDaniel arrived at the meeting at 6:50 PM; Dave Stordahl, Bev Anderson and Bob Hermanson arrived at the meeting at 6:55 PM; and Don Osterday arrived at the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Discussion was then held concerning the proposed cost of the streambank stabilization project. Bart Nies stated the project needs to be designed before he can calculate a cost estimate. Bart also stated there may be 40% project cost sharing from Lafayette County's Natural Resources Conservation Service; and additional cost sharing from DNR. The balance of the cost will come from the sewer department budget or funds on hand. After discussion and consideration, it was the consensus of those present to submit the proposed plan to representatives of the DNR for their review and consideration.

Discussion was then held concerning the proposed timetable for hiring a replacement wastewater treatment plant operator. Jeremy Williams stated Dennis McPhail has previously told this committee he plans on retiring the end of July, 2019. It has also been reported that Jeff McCarthy has completed all of his training and is certified to operate the City's wastewater treatment plant. Jeff McCarthy will then be promoted to treatment plant operator. Therefore, another person needs to be hired to replace Jeff McCarthy. Jeremy stated he would like to hire the new person by the end of 2018, so that person has time to be trained by Dennis and Jeff prior to Dennis' retirement. This will also give the new person time to start their certification classes.

After discussion and consideration, it was the consensus of those present to include the hiring of the new person in the 2019 Sewer Department budget; with advertising and hiring of that person in November and December, 2018, and a starting date of January 1, 2019.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Sonsalla second by Pickett to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseeuw, Clerk-Treasurer