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CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 12, 2016

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Roll Call: Mayor Byran Williams – Present  
Vice Mayor Gloria James – Present  
Commissioner Jason Evans – Absent  
Commissioner Scott Jamison – Present  
Commissioner Sue Weller – Present

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager  
Jenny L. Parham, City Clerk  
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk  
Scott Walker, City Attorney  
Amanda Rodriguez, CRA Executive Director

**DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE HIGH SPRINGS WASTEWATER SYSTEM.**

Mr. Booth spoke of keeping up a constant watch on capacity. He stated that everything is working well. He stated we want to start going out for grants.

Commissioner Jamison stated that the issue is how do we fund the sewer annually, per the requirements. He stated he is disappointed that Mittauer and Rural Water are not here. He stated we have no plan. He stated we go year to year. He states we need to know how we are going to fund repair and maintenance. He stated this needs to be city wide. He stated that he wants to know how we can fund this system city wide. He stated we as a commission need to have a funding plan. He spoke of his concern with the capacity. He stated he will not promote or vote another increase if we do not go city wide. He states if we do not go city wide the entire city will be affected.

Mr. Booth spoke of the bonds stating the system could be self sustaining at 2200 connections. He stated we are putting more on with growth. He states to be self sufficient we will need grants. He spoke of the Previous Finance Director wanting to combine the two accounts, water and sewer together, and operate as one. He states that the auditor general wants the system self sufficient.

Commissioner Weller spoke of the grinder pumps only be effective for a certain period of time. She states there needs to be a mechanism to fund the system for maintenance on city wide basis.

Vice Mayor James stated that a handful of people should not be responsible for the burden of the system when it is a city wide system. She stated that we need to do something.

Mayor Williams stated this is a city wide project. He stated that we are elected officials and are to do what is best for the city.

Mr. Booth stated that for any grants going forward it will be for Gravity not grinder pumps.

Commissioner Jamison stated he wants something brought back in a reasonable time frame. He asked that we direct staff to bring back options that are available, such as infrastructure repair.

Attorney Walker stated that we need 1,000 residential hook-ups. He stated that he has never heard of a sewer system being a money maker. He stated that there are a variety of mechanisms to get users on the system. He speaks of USDA reducing loans for paying off the loan. He spoke of the maintenance being far higher than anticipated. Spoke of USDA loans and grants.

Attorney Walker stated he thinks that he and the city manager could speak to the legislative delegation to see if there are monies available and speak to USDA to see if there is low cost funding available.

Mr. Booth stated we charge a maintenance fee when there is abuse to a grinder pumps.

Ross Ambrose stated the whole system was to be a five phase system; it fell apart when it was decided to discontinue. He stated that in the beginning it was presented that grinders were going to be a problem and was budgeted but over time commissions cut budgets. He stated that looking for grants is great. He spoke of citizens that paid impact fees and not having been hooked-up and others with waived fees. He questioned what the liability is on the city for those people that are not hooked-up.

#### **DISCUSSION ON PHASES 4 & 5 OF THE WASTEWATER SYSTEM.**

Discuss this item along with item #1.

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE HIGH SPRINGS WATER SYSTEM.**

Mr. Booth gave the commission an assesment of the city. Spoke of flushing the system. He stated there are two options that are not expensive that we have the money in the budget to do. He spoke of adding Chloramines to the system (which is ammonia). He spoke of an option of Hydrogen Peroxide. He stated that the Hydrogen Peroxide has been successful in other communities. He would like for the engineers to review first. He stated that this is not a large expense. He stated that we will have to continue to flush the system using both the Water Department and Fire Department. He stated that he will continue to keep the commission informed and will research which system would be best to use.

Mayor Williams stated the problem we are having is the water coming to the system. Mr. Booth stated that is correct. Mr. Booth stated that this would add a step to the system, in order to meet the EPA requirements. He stated that the water is safe to drink.

He states that the problem is going to continue to prosist.

He stated within 30 to 45 days he will come with the engineers and have a solution that they would recommend for the water system.

Commissioner Jamison stated we need to keep the information out there, we need to educate the citizens with something in the paper. He states it is important to keep the public in the loop.

Mr. Booth states staff will go out and look at other municipalities using these solutions to see how it works.

Commissioner Weller states that she would like for Rural Water to be here to tell the commission about the disadvantages of the two options and how to concur or address.

Mr. Booth spoke of looping dead ends on the system, and that we are looking into solutions.

Ross Ambrose stated that he has complete faith in staff. He stated that years ago Rural Water stated that two wells co-located would have problems with population growth. He stated you are solving the immediate problem; but what are we doing to develop a new well field.

Mr. Booth stated that Rodney Hoffman, in Public Works, has been testing the test-well. He stated that it was orginally thought that it would be a joint project with Alachua. Mr. Ambrose stated that this has been kicked down the road by many commissions. He stated we need to be planning.

Richard Daughtery spoke of the elected officials drinking a glass of water versus a bottle of water. Mrs. Parham stated she switched for the convenince to staff.

Commissioner Weller asked if new subdivisions are looped not dead ended. Mr. Booth stated yes.

Commissioner Weller asked if Rural Water would be able to help with funding the correction of dead end lines. Mr. Booth stated that they have been to talk with them and they are also looking into shut offs for water line breaks. Mr. Booth stated there will always be some dead ends.

**Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m**