MINUTES
City Council Public Works & Utilities Committee

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 – 3:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
Lauren Wise, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Owen Carson, Citizen Member
Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Wilson Hooper, City Manager
Dean Luebbe, Finance Director
Wesley Shook, Acting Public Works Director
Dennis Richardson, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor
Aaron Winans, WWTP Staff
Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Communications Coordinator Becky McCann certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Carson, seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. May 1, 2024

Motion by Mr. Wise, seconded by Mr. Carson to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Discussion of Special Order of Consent

Mr. Hooper said we have the option to voluntarily enter a special order of consent. He said that since Mr. Morrow was present for the last one, he would like to hear about his experience of entering into a special order of consent. Mr. Hooper explained that a special order of consent involves going to the State of North Carolina and requesting an extra level of regulation in exchange for protection from

fines and other sanctions that would be levied against us because of our sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). We were under one a few years ago because we had dozens of SSOs that spilled many thousands of gallons, and we identified projects to line the pipes to help reduce this issue. We completed this project in late 2022 and were subsequently removed from the special order of consent. The trade-off to entering a special order of consent is that you receive protection from fines if you complete the projects, but while you are under the special order of consent, you cannot issue additional connection permits, which has implications for development.

Mr. Shook said that's how it worked before, we would estimate how much we fixed, but we always stayed ahead of the moratorium.

Mr. Hooper said we have not negotiated the projects yet, but we have four in mind. We have the funding for one of them, and we could ask the State if it could take us out of the special order of consent.

Mr. Morrow asked which project.

Mr. Shook said we had money left over from the Gallimore Sewer Station, which is now designed to handle a two-inch rainstorm.

Mr. Richardson asked if the special order of consent would be on extensions or taps.

Mr. Shook said both, and it would be on the Gallimore basin.

Mr. Morrow asked if it was for the basin or all sewer sheds.

Mr. Shook said they focus on where the overflows are happening.

Mr. Hooper mentioned that with our one project in mind, this might be enough for them to remove us if we wish to enter the special order of consent.

Mr. Luebbe asked if the State has improvement projects in mind for us to complete.

Mr. Shook said yes, when they sit down with us, they will tell us what they want to see and if we have a plan in place.

Mr. Hooper asked would it be worth exploring with the State.

Mr. Morrow said yes, and test to see if the assistance and partnership are there.

F. KCI Scope of Work

Mr. Hooper said I have distributed the scope of work to the committee. The parts that I asked KCI to add to the scope of work are in Task 2. I asked them to include a review of other planning documents that might inform them of future development

and projections. Additionally, I asked them to explore future plans for the regionalization of a wastewater treatment plant if we were to include the county. I think their assistance with grants will be that they will research grants and find those that apply to us, but I do not think they will apply for them on our behalf. For any pursuit of funding, we will probably need to hire a grant specialist.

Mr. Wise said the grant research task doesn't have a specified deliverable.

Mr. Hooper said we can remove that and negotiate it later. Also, I am not sure if the State will reimburse us for this expense. He said if the regionalization model takes effect, we will have to start thinking about the management aspect of this.

G. Public Comment

Mr. Shook said we will be using GIS to help map the stormwater infrastructure with help from Land of Sky.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Public Works & Utilities Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved: July 1, 2024

X _____
Mac Morrow
Chair, Council Member

X _____
Alex Shepherd
Assistant to the City Manager