

Palmetto City Commission  
April 28, 2008 5:00 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor  
Eric Ball, Commissioner  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner (entered at 5:15 p.m.)  
Mary Lancaster, Commissioner  
Tambra Varnadore, Vice Mayor  
Brian Williams, Commissioner

Staff and Others Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk  
Chief Garry Lowe  
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director  
Tanya Lukowiak, CRA Executive Director  
Bob Schmitt, Planning Supervisor/Zoning Administrator  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m., followed by a moment of silence for overseas military personnel and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

**MOTION: Mrs. Lancaster moved, Mr. Ball seconded and motion carried 4-0 to approve the April 28, 2008 5:00 pm agenda.**

2. DISCUSSION WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PERMIT RENEWAL

Mr. Lukowiak explained the topic is a result of the wastewater treatment plant permit renewal application submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Public Works has received DEP's first comments to the application. Mr. Lukowiak introduced Jim McLellan, Jones Edmunds & Associates, who will discuss the cost analysis of issues regarding the plant.

Mr. McLellan continued the discussion from the April 21, 2008 workshop meeting on the results of their study to evaluate the wastewater treatment plant. The objective of the study was to: 1) assess the ability to re-rate the plant, 2) determine what would be needed to increase the current capacity of 2.4 million gallons per day (mgd) to 3.4 mgd, and 3) complete renewal of the permit. He stated another objective was to be able to provide DEP information with the current renewal application, so any expansion capability could be included in the new five year permit.

The study determined the plant's current two Bardenpho and one oxidation ditch treatment trains (which operate independently of each other) have no reserve capacity; therefore, the plant cannot be re-rated without upgrades. Currently the wastewater is treated, stored in tanks, placed in the reject pond (a key component of the reuse system) or, as a last resort, discharged into Terra Ceia Bay. Mr. McLellan informed Commission the plant currently handles a flow of 1.4 mgd; as the plant reaches the 2.4 mgd threshold, it will struggle to maintain compliance with nitrogen concentration levels.

Mr. McLellan stated that in order to increase capacity, the City will need to expand the reuse system capacity and/or find an alternative disposal to Terra Ceia Bay, such as the ASR well or a deep injection well. Commission discussed the ASR well as a solution to discharge and the DEP's established quality criteria, which must be met before disposal. Mr. McLellan stated the quality standards will not be able to be met without upgrades to the plant. The deep injection well has lower established criteria to meet but, the water is non-retrievable. Ms. Cornwell voiced concern about the loss of the reuse water commodity and potential environmental impacts.

Ms. Varnadore questioned if the permit renewal is contingent upon the proposed upgrades. Mr. Lukowiak stated there are specific items that will have to be done before the permit will be issued; some are to begin a plan for ten years into the future. She questioned what is necessary at this time to renew the permit for another five years. Mr. Williams and Ms. Cornwell questioned what upgrades are necessary to eliminate discharge into the bay. Mr. McLellan confirmed none of the items contained in the report relating to the expansion of the plant are necessary to renew the permit for an additional five years.

Mr. Ball questioned how many more homes will have to come on line to meet the 2.4 mgd. Mr. Lukowiak stated approximately 500,000 gallons remain in the current capacity before the City must have a plan in place, approved by DEP as per Florida Statute, to expand the plant. He estimated the 500,000 gallons per day (taking the flow to 1.9 mgd) will be met once the Preston and Sanctuary Cove projects are built out. He also estimated this renewal at the current rate will be sufficient for the next five years; however, the next renewal process will require the FDE approved plan regarding the expansion of the plant be in place.

Mr. Williams suggested that the plan to expand the plant lacks any reference to the I&I and manhole issues. Mr. Lukowiak informed Commission there is a matching grant of \$500,000 that is available through the Governor's office; he is researching the grant to determine if the City's past improvements can be considered as a match. Mr. Lukowiak also confirmed the SWFWMD ASR grant is strictly for the construction of the well, no other assistance in meeting water quality issues is available at this time.

Discussion ensued on the deep injection well and ASR well. In summary, it will be less expensive to use the deep injection well because the water does not have to be treated as much as if it were discharged into the bay or the ASR well. Mr. McLellan confirmed arsenic is an issue when retrieving water from the ASR well and, more than likely, the City will have to deal with a Consent Order mandating that an approved plan addressing the arsenic will have to be in place.

Mrs. Lancaster stated she wished to see what the City must do to renew the permit for the next five years and the associated costs of the improvements.

In summary, JEA is recommending that improvements to the wastewater treatment plant are completed in two phases:

- Phase I (Items necessary for the next three to five years)
  - Upgrade influent pump station to handle peak hour flow
  - New Grit Removal System
  - Deep Injection Well
  - Expansion of the Reuse System

Mr. Lukowiak confirmed that Phase I improvements will not give the plant any additional capacity. He also stated that regardless of growth, the improvements will only allow the plant to operate in a more efficient manner to meet established water quality criteria. He also stated that once the plant meets the capacity limitation threshold as established by statute (80% of the currently rated 2.4 mgd) the plant will have to be expanded. Mr. Freeman estimated that when the current number of utility accounts increase by 1,500, the plant will meet the 80% threshold. Mr. Lukowiak opined that the projects listed in Phase I, less the deep well injection, should be sufficient for the five-year permit renewal and capacity limits of the plant.

Ms. Cornwell stated she is not interested in pursuing a deep well injection, based on monetary value, environmental issues and loss of access to reuse water. Mrs. Lancaster agreed, stating a

contingency plan for the plant should be built into the budget each year. Ms. Varnadore suggested CIP projects may have to be adjusted to accomplish improvements that are needed at the plant.

Ray D'Aiuto, Veolia Water, discussed the issues the plant currently faces, such as the outstanding 1.4 mgd flow currently being treated with a significant percentage of development empty; difficulty in meeting current nitrate criteria; inability to process metals associated with industrial annexations; the need to continue to allocate I&I programs; and the need to build a contingent budget, which can be funded by impact fees.

Mayor Bustle inquired if the presentation could be put into a Wastewater Treatment Plant Phased Plan. Mr. Lukowiak stated he is already in discussion with Veolia Water concerning a schedule over ten years and financing that may be available. Commission also instructed Mr. Lukowiak to look to other options available such as storage tanks, lined ponds, etc. and their associated costs vs. a deep injection well.

Chief Lowe introduced Scott Tyler, recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

### 3. DISCUSSION: CONGESTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FUNDING

Mr. Lukowiak reviewed the projects that have been funded by the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Congestion Management System grants. The discussion included cost analysis, year of funding, and visual renderings of the proposed projects. Jerry Hester, Westra Construction, took part in the projects review and discussions. The projects are as follows:

1. 10<sup>th</sup> Street & 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue - \$800,000 funded in FY 11-12  
FDOT reviewed, amended and approved the construction plans. FDOT provided a higher cost for the project and allowed some of the Canal Road funding to be used for this project. FDOT will not pay for engineering and right-of-way acquisition. The City has sufficient right-of-way and this project will require minimal engineering, if any, because the plans developed FDOT should be sufficient for engineering.
2. 10<sup>th</sup> Street & 14th Avenue - \$400,000 funded in FY 09-10  
The School Board has indicated it will front the cost of the project and the City can reimburse when the grant funds are received. FDOT will review this project, and hopefully the Haben Blvd. Roundabout, on May 8, 2008. It is hoped any plan they develop will be sufficient for engineering purposes.
3. Canal Road & US 301 - \$600,000 funded in FY 11-12  
FDOT put on hold until Sanctuary Cove is further developed; some of the funds were spread among other projects.
4. Haben Blvd. Roundabout - \$367,000 funded in FY 09-10  
Discussion resulted in an amendment to the plan to provide for two lanes coming into and two lanes exiting the roundabout (four-lane roundabout). CRA will pay for the engineering scope for the project. The City will have to build and then be reimbursed for the project. Additional information will be gathered on additional grant funding because of the increase in constructions costs. The only approval Commission has granted on this project to date is the engineering scope.

5. Mobility Study - \$607,982 funded in FY 09-10  
Joint project with Manatee County and the City of Bradenton.
6. Riverside Dr. & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue - TRIP funding of \$150,000 FY 06-07 and extended  
The CRA Board will review a plan tying all the Riverside Dr. projects together at its May meeting. The item will be brought to Commission when the plan is solidified.

Referring back to earlier discussion on the \$500,000 matching grant available from the Governor's office for I&I repairs, Mr. Lukowiak requested Commission's authorization to seek further information on the grant's stipulations and what the City may offer as the match. Commission concurred, and authorized Mr. Lukowiak to pursue the topic.

FDOT has requested information on new projects the City would like to submit for CMS grant funding. Information on potential projects will be brought to Commission on May 5, 2008.

Mrs. Lukowiak informed Commission the City is experiencing problems with vagrants using the vacant structures on the north part of the property assembled for the School Board. An initial quote of \$18,000 has been obtained. She requested permission to speak with the School Board about paying the cost of demolition, either now or when the City is paid for the property. She will bring the topic back to Commission when comments are received from the School Board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes approved:        May 19, 2008

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk