

**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2011  
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Mary Lancaster, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2  
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Elected Officials Absent

Alan Zirkelbach, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk  
Karen Simpson, Deputy Clerk-Finance  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Frank Woodard, Deputy Director, Project Management & Engineering  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

1. RECLAIMED WATER ASR PROJECT

Tom Farkas, PBS&J, narrated a presentation on an Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) well, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. He stated ASR wells have been successfully utilized in Florida for over 30 years. Currently there are over 75 permitted wells being used for potable water, treated water and reclaimed water.

As a project update, Mr. Farkas stated the ASR Feasibility Study identified the City's wastewater treatment plant as the site for the City's ASR well. FDEP issued a Class V ASR test well permit in 2007. An exploratory well constructed at the treatment plant confirmed the site could support 1-2 million gallons of water storage. If the program moves forward, the exploratory well will be integrated into the permanent well.

In 2008 the ASR programs **throughout the state** were put on hold by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) because of arsenic issues. In the last five years it has been determined that arsenic decreases with continued operation of the well. FDEP is approving wells for cycle testing with administrative orders and if arsenic is found the permit will allow the City to identify mitigation.

SWFWMD has approved the City's plan to resume the ASR well program. The City has also submitted an approximate budget to resume funding under the cooperate agreement executed with SWFWMD. The tentative plan is to complete the design phase of the project by the end of the fiscal year. Construction of the well will begin in 2012 and take up to a year to conclude. During 2012 the City's permits will have to be modified to include an administrative order. Cycle testing will then begin and can continue for ten years. Currently, the project is on track for funding originally allocated for the project.

Staff's recommendation is to complete the plan through the administrative order phase of the project.

Commission discussed the arsenic issue and how the City will monitor the well. Mr. Tusing confirmed that SWFWMD is funding the well as a recovery well rather than an injection well, thus the requirement to treat the water to drinking standards before injecting it into the well.

The projected cost of the well was discussed. Mr. Tusing opined it will be the most economically feasible solution to "getting out of the bay". The exact cost of constructing the well will not be known until the project is put out to bid. Mr. Tusing was asked to provide a breakdown of the cost analysis of the project. The long-term monitoring costs of the well will fall under the wastewater treatment plan operator's contract, currently Veolia Water.

Mr. Woodard confirmed that monies spent on the exploratory well were reimbursed by SWFWMD. The City will receive a 50% rebate for the cost of the well. Commission requested information regarding the agreement with SWFWMD, together with a total expected expenditure with the depth of the well.

Mr. Tusing stated SWFWMD assures him the funds are still available for the project. The City will have to modify the cooperative agreement with SWFWMD because of its expiration date in June. He will ask for a consensus vote from Commission to move forward with the ASR well project.

Mayor Bryant acknowledged the presence of County Commissioner Carol Whitmore.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: March 21, 2011 (with correction noted in bold type)

*James R. Freeman*

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City Clerk