

DeFuniak Springs City Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2019

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Robert McKnight, Councilmembers: Kevin Crystal and Todd Bierbaum. Councilmembers Henry D Ennis Sr. and Wayne Graham were excused. Also present were Mell Smigielski, City Manager; Debra Gibson, Finance Director; Clayton Adkinson, City Attorney and City Clerk Maryanne Schrader. Also, in attendance: Kelly Schultz, Planning Director.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

City Manager Mell Smigielski summarized that today's meeting is regarding the submission of an amendment of our loan application for a force main and a complimentary grant from Triumph to install a super lift station along with water and sewer. During recent tests, the engineers discovered the 8" line will be severely taxed based on current usage. Dewberry engineer Cliff Knauer said the amendment is an \$800,000 cost savings. City Manager Mell Smigielski said the engineers have reviewed the issue and find the lift station should be removed from the Triumph loan and added to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) grant, but we do not want to put the Triumph grant in jeopardy. The solution for the issue is to amend the application to include the lift station in the SRF grant and make improvements to an existing lift station. The total is about 3.4 million dollars, whereas the SRF takes care of 80% and we cover 20%. He added it was also discussed at Mr. Adkinson's office that the Industrial Park does not have a lift station to take the waste to the south from the Best Western area. In order to place the lift station in the initial Triumph grant, we had to know the actual waste load. He requested the Board give him permission to sign the documents to request inclusion of the SRF priority list that includes the 3.4 million dollars.

City Attorney Clayton Adkinson explained in the meeting, the County expressed their concern the application would jeopardize the Triumph funds. The County asked us to make application with the understanding that if the application interfered with Triumph, we would withdraw our application.

In response to Councilmember K. Crystal, Cliff Knauer of Dewberry said they have spoken to Triumph and the SRF, and if we elected to pull a portion of it out, it would not be a problem. C. Knauer explained they have had to move on the submittal quickly because they previously thought they could submit in April, but there is money in the pot now and will not get refilled until August. He mentioned his colleague, Alex, is the model expert on the system, and Alex said we are only getting 300,000 gallons a minute on the 8" line, so it would be advantageous to allocate the money to a lift station. If the application is approved, we could allocate the money to the lift station and get started with additional sewer by May 2021 in the south I-10 area. C. Knauer of Dewberry said SRF is agreeable to us amending the application to add the lift station option by removing the 8" force main and adding the pump station.

Mayor Campbell added the 8" line was temporary, but it was necessary because we did not think we would use the larger line. C. Knauer said we can get the lift station much quicker than Triumph by meeting the December 27<sup>th</sup> deadline, as they hope the project is heard by the committee in February and ranked higher on the priority list.

In response to Councilmember T. Bierbaum and his concern on amending the SRF grant, C. Knauer said they were going to meet with Triumph and approved us moving forward if there was a conflict and we had to move the pump station. City Attorney Clayton Adkinson added Triumph wants to be able to keep the 4.7 million. C. Knauer added that we would move forward with the force main to take pressure off the existing pump station.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum asked if we could go with a larger capacity, and C. Knauer responded there is a 90-foot elevation difference from Best Western to the top of the hill on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, so on Hill Drive they must pump over the top of the hill. He added the upgrade to the 16" line will provide the relief that Craig Drake requested, as it will help with the overall system. C. Knauer added they are anticipating a significant amount of use with the development of Veterans Lodge and future development south of I-10. He said the impact fees will eventually pay for another lift station. He mentioned that if the flow velocity is not high enough, the sewage goes septic before it goes to the treatment plant.

**Motion** by Councilmember R. McKnight and seconded by Councilmember T. Bierbaum to authorize the city manager to sign the revised SRF waste water document with the estimated cost in the amount of \$3,375,698.40.

City Attorney Clayton Adkinson reiterated that if Walton County informs us that the amendment will interfere with Triumph, we will withdraw our portion of the application that applies to the pump station.

Discussion ensued on the contingency part of the motion and the possible need to withdraw the pump station on the application and still install the force main. City Attorney Clayton Adkinson advised that if the application compromised the Triumph funding, the pump station can be removed.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum withdrew his second.

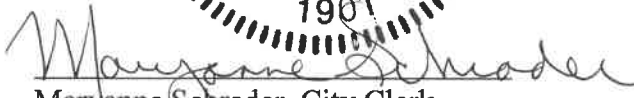
**Motion** by Councilmember R. McKnight and seconded by Councilmember T. Bierbaum to authorize the City Manager to sign the revised SRF wastewater system documents with the projected cost of \$3,375,698.40, and if the SRF application is funded and interferes with the Walton County Restore/Triumph application, the city will withdraw the pump station component.

**Vote:** Councilmember K. Crystal: Aye, Councilmember T. Bierbaum: Aye, Councilmember R. McKnight, Aye. Ayes 3, Nays 0. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.



ATTEST

  
Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk

APPROVED:

  
Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor