



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 10, 2001 AT 7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA

Pursuant to proper notice a Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held April 10, 2001 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Richard A. Brown	City Clerk Lisa Volpe, CMC
Vice Mayor Robert D. Shimp	Director of Finance Steve Ramsey
Councilor James W. Crout	Director of Public Works John Galen
Councilor Ronald Patronik	Supervisor of Water & Waster/Water Leon Smith
Councilor Harriett Pruette	Assistant to the City Manager Terry Klein
City Attorney Christopher A. White	Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait
City Manager Richard A. Linn	

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked each council member to make opening comments relating to their concerns, ideas, and questions about the water/sewer project.

OPENING COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Shimp commented that the project was not an east & west of Third Street issue and that both east and west of Third Street should be treated equally. He also questioned why the sewer system was being worked on before the water system.

Councilor Pruette stated that she wanted to hear from Leon Smith and John Galen. Councilor Pruette was concerned about the sewer problems in Bal Harbour. She felt each area of the city had different problems but since the low water pressure was a shared issue, it should be worked on first.

Councilor Crout stated his purpose for the meeting was to hear from John Galen and Leon Smith and gain more knowledge about the water and sewer problems in order to make an intelligent decision.

Councilor Patronik was concerned about the long-range maintenance cost of the vacuum sewer system. He suggested a comparative analysis to determine which system would be best for the city.

Mayor Brown thanked the council members for their opening comments and asked Director of Public Works John Galen and Supervisor of Water/Wastewater Leon Smith to explain where the project was at today and what needed attention.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Director of Public Works John Galen began the discussion by stating that the present water and sewer systems had some flaws but were functioning well. Mr. Galen explained that the Master Plan was just a suggested direction and some changes may have to take place. Various systems may need to be used throughout the city because what would work for one area may not work for another. Mr. Galen explained the vacuum system may not work east of Third Street because it would involve a high cost of replacing the pavement and was not sure the vacuum system could adapt. Mr. Galen suggested pipe bursting east of Third Street; going from the 6" lines to 8" lines; using the current system and tying into existing lift stations because it would not disturb the surface and would cost less. The manholes needed to be replaced on Penman Road from Winn Dixie to Neptune Lane. We were still in Phase 1A of the project which would be finished by the end of this summer. Nothing else had been decided and the various technologies needed to be looked at.

Mayor Brown asked Mr. Galen if east of Third Street was the first order of business and asked what the nature of Bal Harbour problems were.

Mr. Galen's main concern east of Third Street was infiltration. The city is treating rainwater at the wastewater plant when there are heavy rains because the lift station becomes overpowered. This is why the idea was to start the work east of Third first. The water pressure east of Third was also a problem, although there were new water lines north of Florida Boulevard. In the Bal Harbour area trees had grown over the lines in the back yards causing problems with bellies in the pipes.

Vice Mayor Shimp questioned the two water main breaks in Bal Harbour.

Leon Smith replied that Bal Harbour was a swampy area and the pipes were brittle and sagging.

Councilor Pruette asked if all the pipes had been video taped.

Mr. Galen answered that a lot of the pipes were video taped but not all of them.

Leon Smith stated that the sewer east of Third Street was flowing fine but some of the cast iron crossings had build up and needed to be replaced. There was also a problem with manholes overflowing from Florida Boulevard south to Penman Road and west to Fifth Street because the lift station could not keep up.

Councilor Crout asked Mr. Galen that if he owned the city, what he would do to correct it.

Mr. Galen replied that he would start the work on Penman Road and then work on east of Third Street across from Jarboe Park back to Atlantic Boulevard.

Councilor Pruette asked John Galen what he thought should be done about the water and sewer.

Mr. Galen replied that he would start south of Penman Road because it could be finished quickly and then work on the water and sewer east of Third Street.

City Manager Linn explained that when he started working for the city in 1997 the infrastructure needed to be repaired. He asked council to approve \$240,000 for a master plan and a map of the entire city to find out exactly what the problems were. He chose not to add \$50,000 to \$100,000 to video tape the entire system. Jim Miller with PBS&J did the

master plan and listed priorities. Mr. Miller identified a concern about the fire flows. Mr. Miller outlined Phase 1-1A and Phase 2 at that time which since has been changed. Mr. Miller identified where all the interconnecting loops should be put in the system to increase the water flow and pressure. Because the city was not built at the same time some developments were never interconnected and lines were missing. Mr. Linn felt that as a council and a community it was owed to the citizens to fix the sewage flowing today and do the major overhaul that would take care of it for the next 20 years not just the next 5 years. Mr. Linn explained that the first interruption in the Master Plan came with the Town Center Project. The next interruption was the decision not to place lift stations east of Third Street when the Master Plan called for three. The last interruption was when the boring across Third Street failed eliminating the gravity system. Mr. Linn recommended making the connections west of Third Street and getting the water system looped in those areas.

Vice Mayor Shimp stated it was the citizens living east of Third Street that did not want the lift stations. It was not a council decision.

City Manager Linn explained that a 12" line running from the tank to east of Third Street was needed because it was not putting out enough water.

Councilor Pruette asked about replacing the line running from the tank to east of Third Street.

Mr. Linn answered that the water line was a top priority.

Leon Smith stated there was a problem with low water pressure because when a pipe broke the water could not be shut off because of improper valving. If there was proper valving he could shut them off and areas could be isolated. Mr. Smith added that another problem east of Third Street was the corroded 2" lines that feed down to the 6" lines on First and Third Street.

Vice Mayor Shimp stated that the pipe bursting technology was not explained to the council in the beginning.

For the Record Vice Mayor Shimp stated on the record that he did not like blaming previous councils or the new council trying to change what the previous council did. That is why the master plan was done so that when this council is gone there is still a logical plan. Councilor Shimp asked City Clerk Lisa Volpe to look at the records to find out where they had talked about pipe bursting.

John Galen stated that before any pipe bursting was done it needed to be video taped and if the trenchless technology were used there would still be bellies in the lines.

Mayor Brown asked what were the logical steps to get back on track.

Councilor Patronik suggested slowing down and taking time to gather all the information and figure out the best and least expensive option.

Councilor Crout stated the estimate for pipe bursting was \$110.00 per linear foot.

Mr. Linn stated that 6 million dollars had been approved from the state-revolving loan for the sewer in Phase 1, but there was a shortfall in water funding.

Mayor Brown stated the next step was to gather more information on the vacuum system.

Councilor Crout stated he would like for John Galen and Mr. Linn to sit down and make a list of priorities.

Director of Finance Steve Ramsey stated the Water Rate Study for the year 2000 looked good. Mr. Ramsey added that the state had allocated \$400,000 for the water project. An alternative method of borrowing would be to add the remaining amount needed for the water to the 3-½ million dollar bond loan and refinance it at a lower rate.

Mayor Brown opened the floor to public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Former Council Member Tom Tankersley, questioned the options for east of Third Street.

David Baker, felt that if the current system was working that pipe bursting would be the least expensive option.

Mayor Brown summarized that there was not a crisis and due to the delay we would most likely end up with a better system and save the taxpayers money.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Richard A. Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____