

**UTILITIES COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2007**

Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Council Members Harrison C. Bristol, Jr., Gibson Anthony and Mabel Mumford-Pautz, Robert Sipes, Utilities Manager, W.S. Ingersoll, Town Manager and Zoning Administrator, Jennifer Stead, Stenographer, and guests.

Mayor Bailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2007. **Mr. Bristol moved to approve the minutes as submitted, was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.**

Mayor Bailey stated that cash on hand and in the banks was \$922,244.19.

Mr. Sipes stated that something at well number one (1) (a deep water well) at the water plant was broken again. He said that he called two different electricians in to try to determine what was wrong with the pump. He said that there was no definitive reason why three (3) pumps in three (3) years had broken. Mr. Sipes stated that he instructed the electrician to replace all parts beginning at the well head. Mr. Sipes stated that the bills for this particular well cost approximately \$30,000.00, not including the electrician.

Mr. Sipes stated that the well driller had pulled the pump, flushed the well, and ran a camera to see if they could identify the problem and at the same time the specific capacity, which was how much the well produced for the Town. Mr. Sipes stated that less than 10% of the specific capacity was lost so there was not an issue of the well being able to produce the water, but more likely, something electrical in nature.

Mr. Sipes stated that the well would be monitored and they would try to fix the problem.

Mr. Sipes stated that the contractor at the lagoon site inadvertently took down trees on a neighboring property and they have been replanted.

Mr. Sipes stated that a new digital controller was being installed at the College Heights pump station.

Mr. Sipes stated that a new pipe and tile cutter was purchased for \$3,000.00, which was in the budget.

Mr. Sipes stated that they were still waiting for the liners at the lagoon and that they were looking at how to proceed with the new liner installation since the first attempt failed. Mr. Sipes stated that the Utilities Department offered to pay the difference to upgrade the material of the liner for an improved chance of success upon installation. Mr. Sipes stated that the terms were agreed to and work began but not performed as agreed upon. Mr. Sipes stated that he put in a stop work order and told them to revisit the issues that they failed to address, which they did not. Mr. Sipes stated that there was now a new strategy proposed for installing the liner and they would proceed with that on Tuesday,

November 27th. Mr. Sipes stated that the start-up date would be scheduled after the liner was successfully installed.

Mr. Sipes stated that he contracted an additional inspection agency at the lagoon. He said he felt as though everything was not being covered and the other engineering firm would have experts to oversee the process. Mr. Sipes stated that everyone was instructed to report directly to him.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz asked if the \$30,000.00 previously mentioned for the well was in the budget. Mr. Sipes stated that was not a part of the budget and said that there would probably have to be a budget revision. He said that he would wait until the final bill was submitted for the well before that was done.

Mayor Bailey stated that she had been asked if there could be a separate charge for outdoor water use. Mr. Sipes stated that he was open to suggestions, but he did not want the cost impact of doing that to raise water bills for everyone. Mr. Sipes stated that one idea was for separate meters and then deduct the sewer bill, but the billing program did not allow for that.

Mr. Sipes stated that the water and sewer bills were averaged to determine the overall need. Mr. Sipes stated that those who use sprinklers and soaker hoses often times forget how much water they are using.

Mr. Sipes stated that by using outdoor water without sewer, water was being given at half the rate so the entire structuring would have to be changed for the water and sewer billing in order to meet the revenue the town required.

There being no further business, Mr. Bristoll moved for payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mumford-Pautz and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Mumford-Pautz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., was seconded by Mr. Anthony and carried unanimously.

Submitted by: 
Jennifer Stead
Stenographer

Approved by:

Margo G. Bailey
Mayor