

Water and Sewer Committee Meeting
January 28, 2016
1:00 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

Bob Sandifer, Charlie Kerkes, Jody Kleckley, Bob Renner, Committee Members; Iris Hill and Bob Doub, ex-officio. David Whitten was absent.

Chairman Bob Sandifer called the meeting to order. Charlie Kerekes moved to approve the minutes of December 30, 2015. Jody Kleckley seconded the motion, which was approved 4 – 0.

The next item on the agenda was the Water and Wastewater Professional Services Recommendation. Chairman Sandifer told the Committee that since the Committee recommended to Council they award the contract to American Engineering and AECOM, one of the firms had a substantial change in personnel. Mike Beckman has left AECOM to start his own firm. One of the reasons the Committee recommended AECOM was their experience with Edisto. Mike Beckman provided primary experience. After a conversation about options and avoiding a similar scenario in the future, Jody Kleckley moved to recommend that Council award the contracts to American Engineering and Thomas and Hutton. Bob Renner seconded the motion, which was approved 4 – 0.

Mr. Kerekes asked what the progress was on the recommendation on the reverse osmosis plant. Administrator Hill told the Committee that Council had received the recommendation and read the recommendations from Wharton Smith and Thomas and Hutton. Council had asked questions of the firms and answers were provided. Town Council will discuss the project at the Council Retreat on February 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Utilities Director Bob Doub brought the Committee up-to-date on the Notice of Violation on the sewer plant. Mr. Doub contacted the enforcement bureau of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) when the consent order was received. The Town had thirty days to send a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to DHEC stating what steps the Town would take to correct the high Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) issues. Mr. Doub sent the CAP, and the enforcement bureau sent it forward for approval. Mr. Doub contacted the enforcement bureau and was notified that the CAP was not approved. The enforcement bureau informed the Town that an updated CAP should be sent. Administrator Hill told the Committee that DHEC knew that the Town was working on the problem steadily since July 2014. American Engineering has been hired by the Town to perform a Preliminary Engineering Report, and in that process, would also evaluate what the Town can do to resolve the high BODs. Administrator Hill felt positive that the new CAP would be approved because it demonstrates the Town is working with American Engineering and OnLine Environmental to solve the high BOD problem. OnLine Environmental has made recommendations to the Town, but the Town has chosen to have the Preliminary Engineering Report done at the same time so that the Town would not have to tear out or re-do any of the recommendations after the report was completed. Administrator Hill told the Committee that one possible reason for the high BODs is the duckweed. The higher BODs coincided with the herbiciding and dying of the duckweed. The pond was dredged for the first time in 2013, and currently the sludge level is the same as before the dredge. Mr. Doub said that a microbiological sample had been pulled recently to send to Jim Matthews at OnLine Environmental and results would be available soon. Mr. Matthews said that sludge levels were down when he last checked. The influent water appeared to have a reddish tint, indicating there may be some type of chemical in the water. Mr.

Matthews will perform a microbiological test to determine if there is some type of chemical that may be adding to the BOD issue. The BOD has been, according to Mr. Doub, "on a seesaw. Last month, we had one at 9.5, which was fantastic. The next one was 120." Administrator Hill gave the Committee a bar graph of the recent BOD readings, which is attached to these minutes. During the process of trying to lower the BOD readings, the Utilities Department found that less sludge was in cell one than in cell five, when it should be the opposite. Mr. Doub told the Committee that OnLine Environmental and American Engineering planned to meet soon. Administrator Hill said that when she examined the data over the past three years, the BODs were the only thing that was not inline. The pH, the total dissolved solids, and the dissolved oxygen, among others, were all within normal limits. The Town and DHEC think that the combination of American Engineering and OnLine Environmental and the work already done by the Town will be able to solve the high BOD problem.

Chairman Sandifer stated that Council has two "big ticket" items on the horizon: beach renourishment and the water quality/reverse osmosis plant issue. He suggested that the Water and Sewer Committee attend the retreat on February 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. to express concerns about the water quality system. At the January worksession, Council participated in a taste test. All Councilmembers preferred the 20% blend to the 10% blend.

Jody Kleckley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Charlie Kerekes. The motion was approved 4 - 0.

APPROVED BY THE WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Deborah Hargis", is written over a horizontal line.

Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk

April 1, 2016