

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010, 1:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

Present were Mayor Whaley, Vice Mayor McClure, Commissioner Brackins, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Wear, City Manager Teaster, City Recorder Clabo, City Attorney Gass, and interested parties.

Items discussed were as follows.

1. **Review and discussion of the Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant to renovate the city park** – Parks and Recreation Director Wilbanks discussed a grant that had previously been awarded in the amount of \$220,000. A letter was sent earlier in the year to the grantor asking to turn the money back in due to matching issues and not being able to complete the project in three years. TDEC has since asked the City to reduce the project to a more manageable amount from the initial \$1.1 million costs and has not yet accepted the letter from the City to allow the City time to evaluate its decision. The scale of the project has been reduced at a new cost of approximately \$800,000. The project would now consist of a new plaza area along with a new restroom/concession area. Mayor Whaley asked when funds would be needed for the project. Wilbanks noted that construction would not happen until the next budget year. Wilbanks concluded by noting that a response is needed soon by the State.

Following discussion, council directed staff to show options which would include funding options and how much work could possibly be done by city personnel.

2. **Review and discussion of the proposed new wastewater treatment plant** – Mayor Whaley began by mentioning city council recently traveling to Murfreesboro and Nashville to tour a wastewater facility and hear from TDEC regarding permitting issues. Assistant City Manager Brackins mentioned a proposal from Jess Davis regarding land for a potential wastewater plant site at a cost of approximately \$12,552,000. This would include roughly 116 acres. He noted that this property could be used for the new wastewater plant, other city departments, as well as park facilities.

Kenny Diehl with SSR discussed options for expansion which included staying on existing site which would be a short term solution. This would be a costly option due to longer construction time since the plant would have to be built in parts in order to keep the existing plant open. He said that a new plant site would be the long term solution. Of the potential new

sites, two were mentioned. First is the Jess Davis property where the land is more costly. Second is the Kennedy property where land is less expensive but raw sewage must still be pumped 7 miles. This option may allow for customers to be picked up on the route but a potential line break with raw sewage will be costly to clean up and a force main will have to be ran to the French Broad River.

Wastewater reuse was discussed as an alternative to running a force main to the French Broad River. The terrain was a concern for how the reuse would work in Pigeon Forge. Mr. Diehl said that the slope cannot be greater than 10 percent but the idea is doable based on the amount of reuse the City would have to do.

Mayor Whaley said a priority of the board should be identifying land by the end of the year. Commissioner Robinson said he thinks the first step is determining whether reuse or a force main is the choice before choosing land. Mayor Whaley said that he would like to set up a time line for having things done so that council has a plan to follow.

There was lengthy discussion between commissioners regarding which option was better between reuse and the force main and which site would be the best choice for the City.

Funding options were discussed including the State Revolving Loan Fund and traditional bonds including current interest rates as well as length of the borrowings.

Concerns were expressed by Pam Ogle, Tony Rast, and another citizen regarding odor of the existing plant, cost versus benefit between the choice of the two properties, and being proactive in education the public about reuse if that is the ultimate choice.

Jess Davis wanted to mention three things as it related to his land. First, was willing to negotiate with the City. Second, he has no problem with the City going to a different location. Third, he is definitely against condemnation.

Following lengthy discussion, council directed staff to prepare a letter to the State asking to be considered for a revolving fund loan. It was reiterated that the letter needed to include language for a contingency of not requiring a rate increase if funds are not awarded, accepted, or spent.

3. **Update on Dry Fork Interceptor** – Public Works Director Miller stated that the engineering work was 50 percent complete. An additional \$5,250 is being requested by engineer Cannon and Cannon for additional survey and easement work.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on upcoming agenda.

- 4. **Discussion of funding request from Walters State** – Request has been made to donate \$200,000 to Walters State as part of a match for a building grant. Commissioner Wear said this was great for the county. Commissioner Robinson agreed that it was a great idea and he supported 100 percent if we can afford but questioned how the City could afford to make the donation due to cuts that had been made in the budget.

Following discussion, council agreed to put request on upcoming agenda.

- 5. **Discussion of 50th anniversary celebration for the City of Pigeon Forge** – City Manager Teaster said that she would have to ask council for funds in the near future for the 50th anniversary celebration. She noted that several ideas for the celebration are being considered right now.

Following discussion, City Manager Teaster said she would try to get a better estimate for council to consider.

- 6. **Request for F-100's to use municipal parking lot for car show** – Mayor Whaley stated that the F-100's want to use the municipal parking lot again this year for their show as it was approved last year.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on upcoming agenda.

The next work session will be scheduled for Monday November 1, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B of the City Hall Complex. On the agenda will be discussion of a booking engine for the City, discussion regarding TCRS as well as other possible topics.

After general discussion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CITY RECORDER