

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
CITY COMMISSION
UTILITIES AND SENATE BILL 64 WORKSHOP**

November 16, 2021

5:30 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Partington called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Partington, Commissioners Dwight Selby, Troy Kent, Susan Persis, and Rob Littleton, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, Assistant City Manager Claire Whitley, City Attorney Randy Hayes, Public Works Director Shawn Finley and Mead & Hunt, Inc. representative Brad Blais.

II. DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Shawn Finley, Public Works Director, discussed Senate Bill 64 explaining that it required cities to make useful distribution of the wastewater. He stated the city worked with Mead & Hunt, Inc. to create a conceptual plan. He explained the current reclaimed water users were on the north peninsula, south peninsula, Breakaway Trails, Forest Quest, Hunter's Ridge, Briargate, Deer Creek, Pineland, River Oak and other city areas. He discussed the storage tanks and explained there were four tanks which held 4,000,000 gallons, 3,000,000 gallons, 2,000,000 gallons and 750,000 gallons. He reviewed the irrigation schedule and a reuse flow summary from 2020. He discussed how the city handled the regulation of the reuse water in the past year. He explained there were possibly two days in the past year that required the city to regulate distribution to areas, but noted the overall success during that year.

Mr. Brad Blais, Mead & Hunt, Inc., explained the Senate 64 Compliance Plan had been submitted prior to the November 1, 2021 deadline. He discussed the reasoning behind the bill, noting the city was in a good position and the plan submitted was more of a tweak on strategy already in place. He reviewed the reclaimed water projections and when the city would expect to be at 90 percent utilization. He discussed the issues that could arise once the city reached 90 percent utilization and how to help offset the issues with more storage for the dry months.

Ms. Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, stated the new system interconnection with the City of Holly Hill could also help during the dry months; whereby, Mr. Blais stated that was correct and explained that it was a great source for augmentation during the dry seasons.

Senate Bill 64 Proposal

Mr. Blais reviewed three proposed tiers to assist in reaching the 90 percent utilization. He explained Tier One was to expand the public access reuse which could be done by extending the existing distribution system. He reviewed the areas that could be expanded, including Airport Road and Riverbend Water Resource Management Site, noting capital projects would be needed to get those areas functioning. He explained with planned developments happening he believed the city could reach the 90 percent utilization in just a few years, versus the planned ten years.

Mr. Finley stated the city had success working with the Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) cooperative funding grants and believed there was an opportunity with some of the Tier One extension projects.

Mr. Blais stated there may be more funding opportunities with the new bill. He discussed Tier Two which included regional storage and recharge basins, noting regional storage was required to achieve 90 percent utilization year-round.

Commissioner Selby stated storage was the most important factor in Tier Two, and expressed his concern for adding new customers without the storage. He inquired if the city could add more customers before acquiring storage; whereby, Mr. Blais stated the Holly Hill connection would assist with the needed reuse water and explained that Ormond Beach was a part of Holly Hill's Senate Bill 64 Compliance Plan.

Mayor Partington inquired if there was a list of potential storage areas for either tanks or reservoir lakes; whereby, Mr. Finley stated staff was working on a list, noting if more customers were added there would be an immediate need for another tank. Mr. Finley stated there were a few properties the city was reviewing for a possible storage tank site, but was still investigating for a potential location for a reservoir.

Mayor Partington inquired how much the City of Port Orange reservoir held; whereby, Mr. Blais stated about 250,000,000 gallons. Mayor Partington stated a reservoir would be his preference over more storage tanks. He requested Mr. Blais explain the letter and plan that was sent out in response to Senate Bill 64.

Mr. Blais explained the memorandum, a 15 to 20-page document, had been sent that identified the city's current situation, what the historical discharge had been, projected growth patterns and a plan on what the city would do to comply with Senate Bill 64 within the given timeframe. He stated the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Central District in Orlando was reviewing the plan and noted all cities that had a permit to discharge water had to submit a compliance plan to the DEP.

Commissioner Persis stated she agreed with Mayor Partington, noting concerns with the Holly Hill interconnection and storage tanks. She inquired how the smaller cities were handling the new bill; whereby, Mr. Blais stated New Smyrna Beach had a reservoir, Edgewater had tanks and a small reservoir, Oak Hill utilized Edgewater's reuse and Deland, Deltona, and Orange City utilized an interconnection system with regional storage.

Commissioner Selby asked for an explanation of regional storage; whereby, Mr. Blais stated it was a larger reservoir that could provide seasonal storage where local storage was smaller and closer to the areas that needed the reuse. Mr. Blais explained the Holly Hill interconnect was a start for regional storage for the city.

Mr. Blais reviewed the Tier Three strategy which included Deep Well Injections and Lower Floridan Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), noting he did not believe there would be a need for either. He stated it would be a non-drinking aquifer and utilization would depend on confining units and geology. He explained Brevard County utilized the Deep Well Injections and ASR's. He discussed how it was a long term plan and that new technology may become available before the city would move towards the Tier Three strategy.

Mayor Partington inquired if there were statutes around the ASR's and Deep Well Injections; whereby, Mr. Blais stated there were especially in South Florida.

Commissioner Selby inquired if any cities in Volusia County were utilizing the Tier Three strategy; whereby, Mr. Blais stated none were in effect in Volusia County. Commissioner Selby inquired about testing; whereby, Mr. Blais stated a test well would be needed to see if the environment was conducive.

Mayor Partington discussed the issues with reclaimed water in 2019, noting that 2020 and 2021 were better years, and inquired if 2022 had any expected issues; whereby, Mr. Finley stated 2022 should have the same success and discussed past issues with reliability. He discussed the learning curve that may happen with the Holly Hill interconnect, noting he felt comfortable with the steps the city had taken.

Commissioner Kent discussed the positive aspect of the Holly Hill interconnect and expressed his concerns for the dry seasons and the need for storage. He agreed with Mayor Partington and did not believe tanks were the right path, as many would be needed to fulfill the city's needs. He believed the city needed two to three areas of land for reservoirs.

Commissioner Persis inquired what other states were doing in regards to reuse water; whereby, Mr. Blais stated the State of Florida was state-of-the-art. Mr. Blais explained other states were not as advanced and did not utilize reuse the way Florida did.

Mr. Blais discussed the need for regional storage tanks to be utilized for filtration and management processes.

Commissioner Kent stated the smaller tanks for filtration next to a reservoir would suffice, but noted he did not want numerous tanks around the city.

Commissioner Selby inquired about metering reuse; whereby, Mr. Blais explained most systems evolved into a metering process, noting some cities had a tiered system for reuse. Mr. Blais stated there would be costs associated with implementing a metered plan.

Commissioner Selby inquired if there was a way to measure if citizens were over utilizing; whereby, Mr. Finley stated staff looked into utilizing test meters that would be placed randomly around the community for informational purposes.

Commissioner Selby inquired about native vegetation, asking if there was a strategy in place to encourage citizens to use native vegetation in landscaping; whereby, Mr. Finley stated there were water saving techniques in place but they were not enforced.

Mayor Partington inquired if the city had or could incentivize the use of Florida native plants in the landscaping; whereby, Mr. Finley stated he did not believe there was anything in place. Mayor Partington clarified the Commission as a whole wanted to have surface storage and to not depend on tank storage as much as possible.

Mayor Partington thanked staff and Mr. Blais for the hard work and inquired if Mr. Blais thought there would be funding for the projects; whereby, Mr. Blais stated the Governor of Florida did state there would be funds available.

Ms. Shanahan stated staff reached out to SJRWMD, noting they would have grants opening in January 2022. She explained staff was working to have projects lined up for their review.

Commissioner Kent inquired if there was a timeline for staff to bring back land options for surface storage; whereby, Mayor Partington inquired how long staff would need to prepare. Mr. Finley stated staff would be working on capital projects starting in January 2022, and asked the Commission give staff until April or May. Ms. Shanahan suggested mid-May; whereby, the Commission agreed to May 15, 2022.

Ms. Shanahan clarified land options would be brought back to the Commission no later than May 15, 2022; whereby, the whole Commission agreed.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Transcribed by: Taylor Lochert