

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
RECLAIMED WATER / UTILITIES UPDATE WORKSHOP**

May 17, 2022

5:30 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Partington called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present: 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 City Engineer Alex Schumann.

II. DISCUSSIONS

Ms. Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, stated the workshop was to provide an update on where the city was regarding reclaimed water and introduced Public Works Director Shawn Finley and City Engineer Alex Schumann.

Mr. Shawn Finley, Public Works Director, reviewed the inches of rain average per month and discussed the demand for reclaimed water during the dry months. He explained staff was working on a plan for alternative water supplies, which would include utilizing the best water for the purpose. He explained the three main goals were as little discharge into the Halifax River as possible, to provide irrigation water to as many residents as possible and to move the water to the right place. He addressed the reclaimed water upgrades needed including a proposed reservoir site, pipeline build, and forcemain upgrades.

Mr. Finley explained the property staff considered appropriate was approximately 147 acres, which would contain around 110 acres for the reservoir, ground storage tank and pump station. He reviewed the appraisals received and discussed the storage capacity of roughly 100,000,000 gallons. He explained the project would take around two years to complete.

Commissioner Selby inquired how much the project was estimated to cost; whereby, Mr. Finley stated the development costs would be approximately \$3,345,000.00 for the ground storage tank, pump station, pipe upgrades and reservoir development.

Commissioner Kent asked about the need for the ground storage tank; whereby, Mr. Finley explained it was needed to hold the treated water to be able to send back out into the city during high demand. Commissioner Kent inquired if the proposed project would satisfy the entire city; whereby, Mr. Finley stated it should satisfy those utilizing the reclaimed water system. Commissioner Kent questioned how many millions of gallons of storage was within the city; whereby, Mr. Finley stated at the Orchard Street storage tank there was seven million and about three million on the west side of Ormond Beach totaling about ten million.

Mr. Finley explained after the proposed project there would be 45 to 50 million gallons of storage. He noted the city was going through roughly seven million gallons of reclaimed water on an average day.

Commissioner Kent questioned if the reservoir would allow for no discharge into the Halifax River; whereby, Mr. Finley stated that was the number one goal with the proposed project as staff wants to make sure the city was doing its best to be environmental stewards.

Commissioner Selby inquired about the size of the City of Port Orange's reservoir; whereby, Mr. Finley stated the City of Port Orange had 175 acres of land for their reservoir. Commissioner Selby inquired if the reservoir would be lined; whereby, Mr. Finley stated the city should be able to manage without the reservoir being lined.

Commissioner Kent asked how deep the reservoir would be; whereby, Mr. Finley stated his estimates were based around a standard of 12 feet deep.

Mr. Finley explained the development costs would be closer to \$5,000,000.00, however the contractor could sell the dirt that comes out of the reservoir which would lower the city's costs.

Commissioner Persis inquired if there would be zero gallons of water discharged into the Halifax River; whereby, Mr. Finley stated per Senate Bill 64 there was still an allowance during the rainier season.

Mr. Finley discussed the needs throughout the city and the subdivisions that were utilizing the reclaimed water and where the ground storage was being utilized.

Commissioner Selby clarified the surface storage reservoir would be utilized during the dry season and would collect the water that was being discharged into the Halifax River during the rainy season. He expressed his support of the proposed plan.

Commissioner Selby inquired if the land owner was amenable to selling the property; whereby, Mr. Finley stated he met with the developer who was at the meeting on behalf of the land owner and indicated they would probably be acceptable based on the appraisal.

Commissioner Kent and Commissioner Selby discussed the price point of a contractor selling the dirt from the area to help offset purchase and development costs.

Ms. Shanahan explained the next steps would include obtaining an agreement for the sale of the property.

Commissioner Selby inquired if staff anticipated grant funds to assist with costs; whereby, Mr. Finley stated he would anticipate grant funds from Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). Mr. Finley reviewed the meetings he had with SJRWMD and the notes they provided regarding the best way to apply for grant funds, which included a phased plan for the whole project.

Commissioner Selby inquired about the project being phased; whereby, Mr. Finley stated it would be a two year project and stated the phases were for manageability of the project.

Commissioner Persis inquired if upgrading the pipes would affect any residents; whereby, Mr. Finley stated there would be minimal inconveniences but there should not be any disruptions.

Commissioner Kent stated his support of the project.

Mr. Finley explained with SJRWMD, they would not reimburse the city for funds spent.

Ms. Shanahan clarified there was a consensus from the Commission to moved forward with the project.

Mr. Finley reviewed the Holly Hill interconnect, its issues and potential upgrades. He stated the upgrades would help the City of Holly Hill maintain minimal discharge into the Halifax River.

Commissioner Kent expressed his support of the Holly Hill interconnect.

Commissioner Selby inquired about the gallon amount of excess the City of Holly Hill had; whereby, Mr. Finley stated their excess was between 500,000 and 1,000,000 gallons a day. Commissioner Selby clarified between the City of Holly Hill and the City of Ormond Beach the proposed projects and interconnect would prevent approximately 700,000,000 gallons from being discharged into the Halifax River.

Commissioner Kent discussed the importance of utilizing native plants and vegetation in the medians and suggested converting one median a year within the city.

Mr. Finley reviewed the meetings he had with SJRWMD. He explained the plan submitted regarding Senate Bill 64 was accepted on April 21, 2022. He reviewed House Bill 53, the report requirements requested of the city and the timeline. He announced the city was on the legislative budget for two reclaimed water projects, one for a storage tank and one for a redundant line from the mainland side to the beachside.

Commissioner Persis inquired where the new line would go; whereby, Mr. Finley stated it would go next to the line in the same area at Melrose Avenue.

Commissioner Selby clarified the new line would be the main service line and the older line would be the backup line.

Mr. Finley stated if maintenance was needed on either line, there would be a redundant line to maintain uninterrupted service for the residents. He explained there were pressure gauges on the line to notify staff of any issues that may arise.

Commissioner Selby discussed the importance of stormwater and what was needed to improve the systems in place.

Mr. Finley agreed with Commissioner Selby that stormwater was of high importance and discussed the baffle boxes and vegetative baffle boxes in the city.

Mayor Partington requested photographs be shared of the underground storage at the Lincoln Park and Andy Romano Beachfront Park.

Commissioner Selby agreed with Mayor Partington and inquired about the addition of a QR code for information on the underground storage and what the city was doing with the stormwater.

Mr. Finley agreed with Commissioner Selby's suggestion of a QR code for an educational component at the parks.

Mayor Partington thanked staff for their hard work on the proposed projects.

Commissioner Kent inquired what the timeline would be to get a contract back to the city for the purchase of the property; whereby, Mr. Randy Hayes, City Attorney, stated he would expedite the process and bring it back as soon as possible.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Prepared by: Taylor Lochert