

**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, November 21, 2019

8:45 a.m.

1. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements:

The Water and Sewer Committee of Council met at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Bachman Smith, IV (Chair), Chauncey Clark and Tim Reese. Staff members present were Jason Blanton, Greg Gress and Courtney Liles. There were approximately ten (10) members of the public present and no members of the media present.

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:47 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

2. Communications/Additional Items from WWTF Manager, Greg Gress:

CCOD1 Sewer Line Replacement- There has been an issue with settlement across Middle Street on the crosswalk from the sewer line project. Greg Gress, SCDOT, the engineer and contractor met on October 16, 2019. The repair will commence the week of November 25th and will take a few days. The repair will be at the expense of the contractor. Middle Street will be closed one lane at a time during repair.

3. Discussions/Motions:

- a. Approval of Minutes- October 17, 2019.

Motion was made by Councilmember Tim Reese, Seconded by Councilmember Chauncey Clark, to approve the Water and Sewer Minutes from October 17, 2019, carried unanimously.

- b. Pump Station flood proofing project: Greg Gress gave a brief overview of the project and the system. There are approximately 15 miles of sewer mains on the island, all of which are underground. Most of them are 8" but there are a few larger ones that go up to 15". There are another 5 miles of 6" service lines which is the Town's responsibility from the main to the property line. There are 325 man holes that the Town maintains as well as 6 pump stations (also referred to as lift stations). Those stations lift the wastewater up and pumps it down until gravity feeds it to the plant to pump station 6 which is the center station. The original pump stations 2 and 3 were built in the 1950's. In 1968, the rest of

the system was built, as well as the wastewater treatment plant. In 1998, the Town replaced all of the pumps. The average life of a pump is approximately 7 years under normal maintenance and routine. The current pumps have extended their useful life are all overdue to be replaced. The Town hired WK Dickson in 2018 to give the Town a new design with a challenge to deepen the wet wells while addressing flood proofing. There were 3 options discussed. The first was to keep the existing building if possible, and deepen the wet well. The second option was to remove the existing building and deepen the wet well. The third option was to abandon the building and putting new stations in. The Town decided on option 3, which was also the least expensive option.

Walt Fletcher with WK Dickson presented the site plans and combined set renderings (Attachments 1 and 2). The flood elevations reflect the new flood maps that are not out yet.

General Comments:

Brent Havens, 1746 Thompson Avenue- asked when the renderings were done. Mr. Fletcher answered last week. Mr. Havens stated that the Town should have come to those being impacted from the start of the project and feels it was short sided. He was told in the beginning that it was going to be quiet and underground. He asked why pump station #3 cannot be moved to another location. Mr. Havens stated that taking it off his property and making it 7x larger will affect his property value.

Paul Vannatta, 1802 Back Street- asked why pump station #3 cannot be moved to another location. Greg Gress stated that is a more expensive option because the gravity system would have to be relayed.

Councilmember Tim Reese stated that if there is an option to relocate then it should be explored. The former dump site was discussed as an option, however, that site is in a property trust and under an easement.

Brent Havens asked if the platform could be lowered. Councilmember Bachman Smith stated that is not an option due to heat conductivity. There is a clearance for the equipment that needs to be maintained. Greg Gress added if the workers needs to access the panels during a rain event, they need to have a roof over their head to the waterproof equipment does not get damaged.

Mrs. Vannatta, 1802 Back Street- commented that her house is raised she will have to look directly down into station #3. She added it will also affect their property value.

Brent Havens asked if the footprint of the fence could be smaller. Mr. Fletcher answered they want to provide security for the equipment that controls the pump. Mr. Havens suggested only securing what needs to be secured in the fence.

The 30' pole shown in the renderings is for a radio signal. Cellular signal is an option but it is not as reliable due to connectivity issues. SCADA system uses radio signal and is a computer system for gathering and analyzing real time data. The systems are used to monitor and control the equipment for the plant.

Jeremy Anspach, 1302 Cove Avenue- stated pump station #2 will affect his property and he will no longer be able to access his garage. He also expressed concerns regarding security issues with children climbing on the fence.

Residents in the audience suggested postponing the bid process due to lack of transparency.

Councilmember Bachman Smith stated all of the comments and concerns will be taken under advisement.

Councilmember Tim Reese stated he did not realize the design was going to look as industrial as it does. He wants to look into possibly re-designing stations 2 and 3.

The bid submittal is scheduled for November 26, 2019. The bid tabulation will then be presented to Council on December 2, 2019 and a consideration to award a bid on December 17, 2019.

- c. Comply with Codification Review suggestions as to water shut-offs due to unpaid bills (on hold).

4. **Review of Active and Pending Projects:**

The current status of active and pending projects (a. through i. below) was reviewed.

- a. Wastewater Treatment Plant Retrofit (Construction Phase)
- b. Charleston CPW/ICW Water Main Project (anticipated start in Fall of 2020)
- c. CWS contract revisions
- d. I&I Phase II (nearing completion)
- e. Written Cost Recovery Program
- f. Private Sewer Lateral Policy for I&I Reduction
- g. Pump Stations flood proofing project (design phase)
- h. ASR: Aquifer Storage and Recovery (explore use of Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant funds)
- i. Water & Sewer Ordinance review/clean-up

5. **The next Water and Sewer Committee Meeting is scheduled for:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 8:45 a.m. at Sullivan's Island Town Hall.

6. **Adjournment:**
Motion was made by Councilmember Reese, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey Clark, to adjourn at 10:11 a.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Courtney Liles