

# **Richland County Council**

# AMENDED

# SEWER AD HOC COMMITTEE

December 8, 2020 – 3:00 PM Zoom Meeting 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

Dalhi Myers	Bill Malinowski, Chair
District 10	District 1

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u>
  - a. June 30, 2020 [PAGES 2-8]
- 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- 4. <u>EASTOVER PLANT UPGRADES SOUTHEAST SEWER PROJECT FLOW INCREASE</u> [PAGES 9-12]
- 5. **SEWER SERVICE FOR ALBENE PARK [PAGES 13-88]**
- 6. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>



Special Accommodations and Interpreter Services Citizens may be present during any of the County's meetings. If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), as amended and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may request such modification, accommodation, aid or service by contacting the Clerk of Council's office either in person at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC, by telephone at (803) 576-2060, or TDD at 803-576-2045 no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.



# Richland County Council Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 – 2:00 PM Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski and Dalhi Myers

OTHERS PRESENT: Chakisse Newton, Paul Livingston, Michelle Onley, Leonardo Brown, John Thompson, Ashley Powell, Stacey Hamm, Ashiya Myers, Brad Farrar, Angela Weathersby and Tariq Hussain

- 1. <u>Call to Order</u> Mr. Malinowski called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 PM.
- 2. <u>Approval of Minutes: February 25, 2020</u> Mr. Malinowski stated the minutes indicated there were nonmembers voting on the Adoption of the Agenda. In addition, the footer on the minutes needs to be corrected to reflect the proper committee.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to approve the minutes as corrected.

In Favor: Malinowski and Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Adoption of the Agenda – Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski and Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. Council Motion: I move that Richland County staff reevaluate the sewer project methodology to potentially allow for usage based rather than flat rate fees [MYERS] – Mr. Brown stated the included briefing document outlines Scenario I – Water Usage and Scenario II – Tiered Rates. Both of the scenarios evaluated using a usage rather than a fixed-rate fee. If you look at the details, you will see they will require an investment by the County for meters. There are a couple issues outlined in the document that communicate why that would not be a viable solution, based on time and money. As a result, both of those items, the water usage or tiered rates, would not be viable options that would address the request made by Ms. Myers, in a financially or timely way that would address the immediacy of the concerns raised about equity in sewer rates.

Ms. Myers stated going forward it would be helpful if we could look at phasing in meters because that is the only fair way to charge people, if they are getting a service. It is fee for service, but we cannot accurately tell

#### Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 -1-

them what their fee is, if we do not have a meter. As a secondary issue, she would like to see, going forward, some discussion of how to phase in meters, and how to pay for those meters.

Mr. Malinowski stated he agrees with Ms. Myers. It has been years ago, but he inquired about why we could not use meters. At that time, he was told it was cost prohibitive, but no one ever told him why we could not implement meters as we moved forward with new development. He stated, if a development is going in, whether they are depending on sewer, City of Columbia, or another entities water, he does not know why we cannot ask that meters be put in.

Mr. Brown stated he made a note to find out what would prohibit us from doing that with new development, and what it would take for us to make it a process, as it relates to Utilities.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, for new development, dependent on Richland County water or sewer services, or both, that the developer be required to meter the homes for usage, and that going forward Richland County develop a phased-in plan, so that a certain number of historic customers are annually brought into a metered system, until all customers are metered.

Mr. Brown stated, he understands, this is something we want to look at going forward. He inquired if this motion would immediately go into effect, or would we set out some dates and times, so we can make sure we can accommodate this motion being put into effect.

Ms. Myers responded for new development it is immediate, but over time we will phase in a certain amount of customers, until they are all phased in.

Ms. Newton inquired what would happen if there was a new development where the City of Columbia, or another entity, was providing water services, thereby the meters were theirs because the sewer usage is calculated based on water usage.

Ms. Myers stated she believes our customers need to be on our meters, which is why she is saying to migrate them to whatever meters the Utilities Department decides they want. In the interim, we are going to treat everybody the same, but we are going to migrate to a meter-based charging system, and those meters would be installed by Richland County.

Mr. Livingston stated, as we move toward a meter-based system, how do we determine the costs where we are able to pay for operation and capital.

Ms. Myers responded the current briefing document is the scenario we would be working under. If we approved one of the scenarios, suggested by staff, that takes into account the debt service and ongoing maintenance. The motion contemplates we would accept one of these suggestions from staff, as the current way to pay for services, then going forward, as we move to meters, it would be incumbent on staff to analyze what the charges are on the meters, and whether they cover our debt service.

Mr. Livingston stated sometimes fees can have a disproportionate effect on the poorer citizens, or those with larger families, due their need for larger amounts of water or having broken pipes, toilets, etc.

Mr. Malinowski stated there was a comment in the briefing document that nobody uses a sewer meter.

Mr. Livingston stated the City's fees are based on the water meter, and not the sewer meter.

Mr. Brown stated, early on, Ms. Myers did raise this issue, and that is why they were looking at some sewer

#### Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 -2-

meters. The other thing we would need to be mindful of is there are citizens on well water. Therefore, we still may have different classes of customers, within our combined system, which still not be on meters.

Mr. Malinowski stated, for clarification, Ms. Myers' initial motion has been tweaked into the new motion.

In Favor: Malinowski and Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### 5. <u>Council Motion: I move to direct the County Administrator to work with staff to develop a modified</u> <u>sewer plan that:</u>

- Corrects the disparity in sewer rates for the new Richland County sewer customers transferred from City of Columbia sewer service in January 2020; and
- Assesses and updates the County's long-term sewer strategy to ensure the sustained health of the system while also preserving fair, consistent rates for all sewer users.

This plan should be comprehensive in nature and include a timeline, benchmarks, and a methodology for tracking its success. It should also identify the parties responsible for completing proposed work as well as a robust constituent communication strategy. The plan should move to Council for review and action as soon as possible and no later than Council March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting (or not more than four (4) weeks from the date of Council's February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting). [NEWTON]

Mr. Brown stated, this motion required staff to look at the disparity in sewer rates among Richland County and City of Columbia transfer sewer customers, to assess a long-term strategy to address both the health of the system and fairness and equity across rates, as well as how to address the issue going forward. Staff's recommendation is to approve the multi-class rate structure (Scenario 4). This plan will allow the County to migrate customers from any sewer service into Richland County's service, and build in a process where they can move toward the County's flat rate, over time, and appropriately account for that in their budget, without "sticker shock", while at the same time allowing the County to maintain its financial health in the sewer system. He referred the committee to two (2) scenarios (Exhibits 1 & 2). Exhibit 2, is the multi-class rate approach, which clearly shows you that it accounts for both the actions Richland County recently took to slow down, or delay charging the sewer customers the approved \$64.00 rate. The rate is still there, we are just not billing the customers for that rate. Richland County is absorbing that as a part of COVID-19. Then, they built in the rate structure between the flat rate and the rate that has a variable increase, year to year, until all customers are paying the same flat rate. He stated the fund balance allows us to meet the debt criteria we need to meet, as well as maintain our numbers in black for operating. Fundamentally, what you have is, "Citizen A" coming from another system onto Richland County's system. Whatever rate they were paying on that system, they will receive annual increases, as necessary, until they meet Richland County's flat rate. This allows for citizens to not get "sticker shock" and to potentially be able to afford, and budget for, increases without it being a drastic increase. He believes this program addresses the equity, the long-term and short-term financial needs, and it addresses customers coming onto the system to be treated consistently and fairly across the board.

Ms. Myers stated Franklin Park is a class of customers who are not receiving any treatment for their wastewaters and have been brought into this new rate scheme with an increase. She would like to know where they would fit on the rate schedule, and if they would be the lowest on the schedule and brought up until their system is built up and put on a system. Currently, their wastewater goes in a lagoon behind their development.

#### Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 -3-

Mr. Brown responded he was not aware there were citizens on the system that we were not having their wastewater treated. Based on class, they would be a separate class because they would fall into a unique group. Everybody in that group would need to be treated the same. The question he has is, what services we are providing to Franklin Park, so we can try to figure where they would fall on the table.

Dr. Thompson stated, it is his understanding, the County is only servicing them with water. We will confirm that we are only charging for water, and not sewer.

Ms. Myers stated they were a part of the group that experienced the rate increase, so they are being billed for something.

Mr. Brown stated, if it is the committee's will to move this Council, we will look at what is being charged to those individuals, review the table we are using for the other transfer customers and communicate what those rates are, and determine a realistic and reasonable rate for someone that is not receiving any service.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, their wastewater is not being treated in a manner consistent with what we would call best practices.

Mr. Brown stated it would likely be a minimal standard rate, and we would have to have Council ultimately agree this is a rate they would be willing to charge, based on what the individuals are receiving, by way of wastewater treatment.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to accept staff's recommendation.

Mr. Malinowski stated, it his understanding, some of the customers is still being treated by the City of Columbia, so he can agree and understand they should have a rate that is comparable to what the City was charging them. However, once the County begins providing sewer to them, he does not see why they should still be receiving service at City rates. He knows the other class will also receive a percentage increase until they catch up with the County, but, if the increase is no more than 15% per year, they are never going to catch up with the County rate. It seems that particular method is fine as long as the City is treating their waste, but once the County takes over, he does not see how they can become a separate class.

Mr. Brown responded, when they looked at how to provide equity into the process, that is where this came in. They are starting at one point, and working their way toward another point. In order to do that, in a way that is feasible to the individuals who are a part of an acquisition/transfer this allows those individuals to account for what the County is going to charge them. The other alternative would be for the County to charge a higher rate, and receive a higher sum of delinquencies or non-payments for those rates. If we stay in any level of COVID over the next 12 months, the Governor has said utilities cannot end the services of individuals due charges. We want to be smart about how we account for that, and based on what he believes Council will be doing, you only have about 5% of individuals who will not be caught up. If we hold rates where they are currently project, the majority of the customers will be caught up in the next 2 years. If Council changed the rates every year, which is unlikely, the customers would not be able to catch up.

Mr. Malinowski inquired about how long it will be before the County begins treating the waste for the City's current customers.

Mr. Brown responded he believes the build out is not scheduled to be completed until next Summer.

Dr. Thompson responded they anticipate construction will be complete in June 2021.

#### Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 -4-

Ms. Myers stated the questions by Mr. Malinowski are questions she has been consistently asking. She still does not understand how we say this provides equity. What it provides is a glide pass, and less "sticker shock". She does not know that she can say it provides any equity or fairness. It maintains customer satisfaction. The goal is to make sure we retain the customers, and keep them happily on the system without blowing up this new, and necessary build out of the system and retain the integrity of Richland County's 208 territorial rights. She would suggest the best way to handle this is a rate study that takes in where we are, and then brings everybody onto the system in a way that does not have this "sticker shock". She knows no one wants to do another rate study, but she does have heartburn about having customers on the system being subsidizes by others, when they are getting the same service.

Ms. Newton stated she wholeheartedly agrees we should not be finance the system on anybody's back. When we transferred these customers from the City, she was told their rates were going to remain the same, or be better. Had that not been information given to her, she would not have voted for it. You have a situation where you have customers, right now, that have their wastewater treated by the City of Columbia. They are receiving the exact same service, yet their rates have increased by 30 - 50%. The way these customers are currently being treated, only exist to have something financed on their backs, which is not what she was expecting and would not be fair. In terms of the research she has done of other sewer systems, it is a common practice, among sewer systems, to have different tier/class structures, when people are receiving different services. There is no Richland County customer, except this group of customers, who falls into this class. Their sewer is actually being treated by the City of Columbia. They are receiving the exact same service that they received on December 31, 2019, but now have the privilege of paying twice as much for it. What this solution does, not just for these customers, but as a policy for future transfer customers, is a model that is a "glide pass". In this case, they are not being treated by Richland County. They are receiving the exact service as before. You have a small minority, after a period of time, who would not be paying that. For those customers who were expecting us to keep a promise of consistent rates, who had their services purchased, this is a solution that everyone compromises a little.

Mr. Malinowski stated he agrees, if the customers are still receiving services by the City, they should pay those rates, but once they get taken over by the County, and the County is treating it, then their rates need to increase to the County rates. Also, if we are talking about fairness, and rate structures, we can create different classes, as long as everybody within that class falls under those requirements. We may want to look at senior citizens who are using less sewage than a family.

Ms. Myers stated she understands what Ms. Newton is saying. Only she and Ms. Newton have lived the reality, on the ground, where sewer is an explosive topic every day. While today the transfer customers have a good claim they are getting the same service, and paying more for it, next year they will be getting better service. They will have a brand new system that hopefully is much better than what they are on now. It may cost more, but they will be getting a better system, and the County will be able to defend our 208 territory and prevent their annexation. She would hope that we would undertake a rate study, and look at making the rates across the board, once everyone is on the system, more palatable for all customers. If any breaks should be given they should be given to senior citizens on fixed incomes, or individuals who are using less. She does not see putting new customers on the new system and charging them a depressed rate.

Ms. Newton stated there would be a small number of customers that would take time to come up to the Richland County rate using this scenario. She would add that as you look at sewer systems across the country, this is not uncommon structure to be used.

Mr. Malinowski stated, while we can have a different rate for a different class of individuals, it has been his understanding that you cannot charge different rates for individuals receiving the same service. Therefore, once the current customers come on board and begin receiving Richland County sewer treatment, they are

#### Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 -5-

now receiving the same service as everyone else, and cannot receive a reduced rate.

Mr. Malinowski made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Myers, to ask staff to immediately revert the monthly fee back to what the individuals were paying when they were with the City because the City is still treating their sewer. When they come into the County system then they will come up to the County fees. In addition, he would like to incorporate Ms. Myers request for a rate study.

Ms. Myers inquired if the motion includes what was discussed about the Franklin Park customers.

Mr. Malinowski responded, if they are not receiving treatment, they should not be paying for treatment.

Ms. Newton stated, for clarification, these are things that would move simultaneously, so if this motion to pass the rate piece would move to Council, but it would not wait on a rate study.

Mr. Malinowski responded the motion is primarily to charge them the rate they paid, while they were with the City, because technically they are still with the City. When the new system is completed and these individuals come onto the Richland County system, they will be brought up to whatever the costs is for the Richland County system.

Ms. Myers requested a date certain by which the rate study will be completed.

Mr. Brown stated his concern is how the rate study could be conducted without the build out being complete. If we are asking them to make a projection, then we are back to where we are right now.

Ms. Myers noted the rate study we are currently working under has a lot of assumptions that, in her opinion, were fundamentally flawed. It also has a number of customers added to the system that does not reflect where we are, or the actual number of customers we are going to add to the system. To the extent that the number of customers on the system will drive the monthly needed per customer, as well as the cushion established for maintenance.

Mr. Brown stated, when you say revert the rates to the City, you had some individuals that were paying more than when they got on Richland County. For clarification, do we want to take those individuals back to that amount, because that could cause another firestorm?

Mr. Malinowski clarified that it will only effect those customers that had their rates increase.

Ms. Myers noted there are more customers who have transferred and realized a lower rate than there are customers that realized an increase.

Ms. Newton stated Ms. Myers' statement is incorrect. She stated there are vastly more customers who have experienced an increase.

Ms. Myers stated if they are all in the same case, and everyone is not in the same circumstance, how will we set their rates, and the others will charge the City of Columbia rate. We have now created disparity within the class.

Ms. Newton noted the class is based on the treatment and services they are receiving from us. They are all the same in that way. What staff's recommendation provides, which the substitute motion does not provide, is that it was working toward the goal of having everyone ultimately raised to the Richland County rates. It presumed the Richland County rates is the ceiling, and that what we are trying to do is transition every

#### Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 -6-

customer to that rate.

Mr. Malinowski stated he believes Legal needs to weigh in and tell us what we can do. If we are going back to the way it was and everyone paying the same rate, then those few that had their rates reduced will have to have them increased to keep the class the same.

Mr. Farrar responded to the discussion by stating that you want to have this wired before you implement it because of the potential negative, unintended, consequences of having someone saying they have budgeted for this lower rate, and now my rate is going up because of something we are doing different. Legally, you have to treat everybody within the class the same way.

Ms. Myers suggested deferring this to the next meeting. She felt uncomfortable about voting on something that we are unclear on.

Mr. Brown stated, for the record, there are 743 customers that are paying a lower fee, and 695 customers are paying more than \$55.68/month.

Ms. Myers stated whatever we do it needs to include a staff led plan, in writing, for public information, so that Ms. Newton or whomever else does not end up in the newspaper as an abuser or process.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to defer to the next committee meeting.

In Favor: Malinowski and Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Newton requested to have the next Sewer Ad Hoc Committee as soon as staff has the numbers.

**ADIOURN** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:57 PM.

6.

#### Sewer Ad Hoc Committee June 30, 2020 -7-

RICHLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION 2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069

Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2050



#### Agenda Briefing

Prepared by:	Bill Davis			Title:	Director		
Department:	Utilities Division:			Utilities			
Date Prepared:	November 20, 2020 Meeting Date:			December 08, 2020			
Legal Review	Elizabeth McLean via email				Date:	December 01, 2020	
<b>Budget Review</b>	James Hayes via email				Date:	December 02, 2020	
<b>Finance Review</b>	Stacey Hamm via email					Date:	December 02, 2020
Approved for consideration: Assistant County Ac		Assistant County Admir	nistrator	rator John M. Thompson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM			Ph.D., MBA, CPM
Committee	Sewer Ad Hoc Committee						
Subject:	Eastover Plant Upgrades – Southeast Sewer Project Flow Increase						

#### **STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends that County Council approve the additional services for rehabilitation work at the Eastover Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) listed herein and added to Tom Brigman Contractors, Inc.'s current Division 2 Contract for the Southeast Sewer and Water Expansion Project (Project). The rehabilitation work at the Eastover WWTP will bring the plant to tis full rated capacity of 750,000 gallons/day and enable the County to take on the additional sewer flows from the transfer area and other customers along the project route once the project comes online.

#### Request for Council Reconsideration: ☑Yes

#### FIDUCIARY:

Are funds allocated in the department's current fiscal year budget?		Yes	V	No
If no, is a budget amendment necessary?	$\checkmark$	Yes		No

#### **ADDITIONAL FISCAL/BUDGETARY MATTERS TO CONSIDER:**

The Southeast Sewer and Water project has sufficient funds allocated to pay for the change orders and additional services for the project. Current funds will cover the estimated cost not to exceed \$450,000 for the additional services.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FEEDBACK/POSSIBLE AREA(S) OF LEGAL EXPOSURE:

None.

#### **REGULATORY COMPLIANCE:**

Though the current WWTP is permitted for 750,000 gallons per day, only one-half of the WWTP is needed to serve the existing operational demand (see images below from 2012 to 2020). If additional flows are added to the current flows, all of the plant capacity available is necessary for operations. Also, because we will receive flows totaling 90% or more of the rated capacity, the County will need to continue its current plan for submitting a preliminary engineering report for the design and permitting of an upgrade at the WWTP over the next few years.

# Eastover WWTP Circa 2012



# Eastover WWTP Circa 2020



#### **MOTION OF ORIGIN:**

There is no associated Council motion of origin.

Council Member	
Meeting	
Date	

#### **STRATEGIC & GENERATIVE DISCUSSION:**

The Eastover WWTP repair and maintenance work is mandatory for the plant to operate at full capacity and to be able to receive the flows from the Southeast Sewer and Water Project. The current plant has a rated capacity of 750,000 gallons/day, but it is only able to run at 375,000 gallons/day with reliable capacity since only half of the plant is in operation. When the project is completed, the plant is expected to receive about 700,000 gallons/day as opposed to an average of only 120,000 gallons/day from the Town of Eastover and Kemira. Due to the low flows received at the plant historically, there has not been any need for the plant to operate at its full design capacity. However, with the large volume of flow that will be delivered from the project, we will need to be at full capacity to take on the additional flows. Performing these repairs will put us on schedule for a plant to be at full capacity before the project is completed in July 2021.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

The Eastover WWTP rehabilitation is listed on the attached Brigman quote. Quotes were requested from the contractors currently working on the project and were received and evaluated by the project consultant, Joel Woods & Associates. The recommendation was to award the work to Brigman who has plant repair experience as well as provided the lowest total quoted price of \$437,374.05. We are requesting approval of a "not to exceed" amount of \$450,000 which gives us a contingency to cover unforeseen items of about 2.5%.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Brigman Quote

# Date of Quote: 11/12/2020 3:02:00 PM

# Job Name: Eastover Wastewater Plant Rehabilitation

Project: Southeast Water and Sewer Expansion Project - Division 2

Contractor: Tom Brigman Contractors, Inc.

Item	Item	ltem
No.	Description	Cost
1	Contractor Mobilization	\$ 7,187.50
2	Weir Plates	\$ 7,150.00
3	Electrical Connections	\$ 23,000.59
4	Mixer Guide Rail in Basin #1	\$ 15,370.00
5	Install (1) New and (3) Existing Mixers	\$ 31,687.50
6	Hoists for Each Mixer	\$ 45,001.14
7	Install Existing Mixers in Basin #2	\$ 11,625.00
8	Not Used	\$ 0.00
9	Floating Decanter, Pump, and Piping	\$ 25,638.64
10	Replace Gate Valves at Contact Chamber with Plug Valves	\$ 76,750.00
11	Replace SBS Discharge Piping	\$ 15,637.50
12	Refrigerated Influent Sampler and Cover	\$ 13,837.50
13	Add Cover Over Existing Effluent Sampler	\$ 6,250.59
14	Magnetic Flow Meter in Precast Vault at Pump Station	\$ 65,763.64
15	Clean Walls in Basin #1	\$ 58,125.00
16	Remove and Dispose of Sludge	\$ 15,286.95
17	Assist Plant Operators with Start-Up	\$ 19,062.50
	Sub-Total	\$ 437,374.05
	Contingency	\$ 12,625.95
	Total	\$ 450,000.00

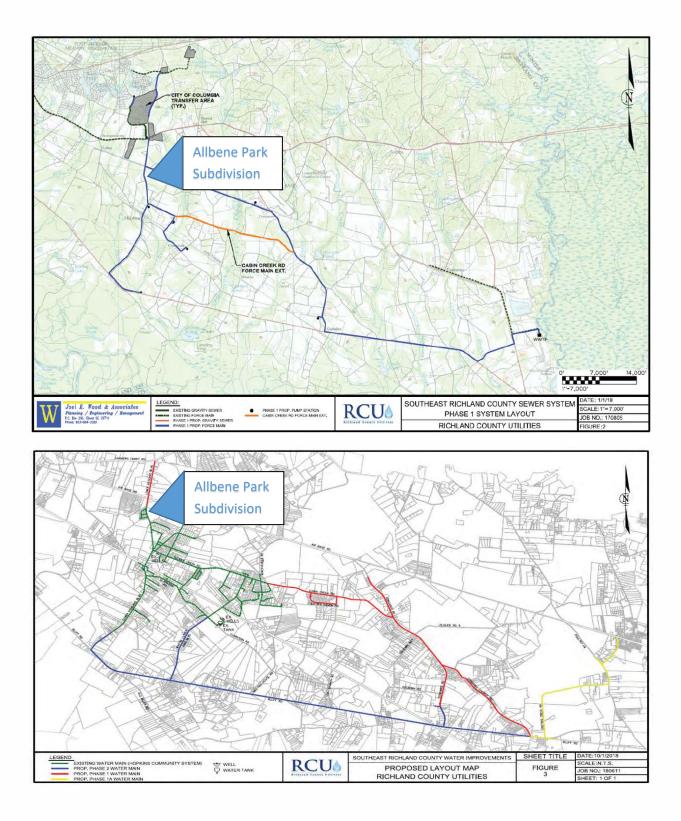


#### Memorandum

То:	Chair of the	Committee and the	e Honorable Me	ember	of the Se	ewer Ad Hoc Committee	
Prepared by:	Bill Davis, D	irector					
Department:	Utilities						
Date Prepared:	December 5	December 5, 2020 Meeting Date:			December 8, 2020		
Legal Review	Brad Farrar				Date:	December 7, 2020	
<b>Budget Review</b>	James Haye	S			Date:	December 6, 2020	
<b>Finance Review</b>	Stacey Ham	Stacey Hamm			Date:	December 7, 2020	
Approved for consideration: Assistant Cour		Assistant County	Administrator	istrator John M. Thompson, Ph.D., MBA, (		npson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM	
Committee	Sewer Ad-H	ос					
Subject:	Sewer Servi	ce for Allbene Park					

#### **Background:**

The last change in the design that we could identify was presented to council for The Southeast Sewer and Water Expansion Project (SESWEP) design plan for Phase 1 was as presented on May 21, 2019, see Attachment 1A – Council BD from 5-21-2019 and Attachment 1B – Council Minutes from 5-21-2019 (see Item 20.e on page 24). The construction of Phase 1 Divisions 1 and 2 of the project (the "backbone" of the system) were approved by council on December 17, 2019, see Attachment 1C – Council BD from 12-17-2019 and Attachment 1D – Council Minutes from 12-17-2019 (see Item 9.c on page 4). Sketches of the original plans for sewer and water are shown below. Phase 1 is currently under construction with a total of four (4) "Divisions" and is scheduled to be completed by July, 2021. Sketches of the original plans for sewer and water are shown below (Allbene Park has been identified on each map with a label). The current water and sewer plans under construction are included in the weekly project report, see Attachment 2 – SESWEP Weekly Report.



Allbene Park is an existing 42-home residential development located in the Hopkins area of Richland County, see image below for location and lot layout from the Richland County GIS. Currently, all 42 homes are on septic tanks. The SESWEP included water service for Allbene Park in Phase 1, however the closest sewer line in Phase 1 is a forcemain located on Lower Richland Boulevard. Allbene Park sewer service was not included as part of the approved Phase 1 Project Divisions.



Allbene Park and other areas desiring sewer service or where developers are inquiring about service are being considered for sewer service as staff defines the boundaries for the Phase 2 Project area. A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Phase 2, along with subsequent design Project "Divisions", will be developed as part of our Capital Improvement Plan for 2021 in conjunction with recommendations in the PER.

The Sewer Ad-Hoc committee has requested more information regarding sewer service to Allbene Park as part of Phase 1 of the SESWEP. It is our understanding that Mr. Joel Wood and Councilwoman Myers attended multiple public meetings with residents in the Allbene Park subdivision. It was brought to staff's attention by Councilwoman Myers that Mr. Wood promised sewer service to the residents of Allbene Park, see Attachment 3 – Email with replies from Councilwoman Myers and Councilman Malinowski.

Staff located a BD that was requested by Councilwoman Myers for Allbene Park and other areas in consideration for sewer service, see Attachment 4 – BD Allbene Park Bluff Road Community and St Johns Church 06-16-20. This BD was sent to Councilwoman Myers by staff and subsequently put on hold, see Attachment 5 – Email from Councilwoman Myers.

In order to connect Allbene Park to the sewer forcemain, a sewer collection system must be designed and constructed that will allow gravity flow to collect sewer and transport it to a pump station that will pump the sewer from the neighborhood and preferably other areas to the forcemain on Lower Richland Boulevard. Pump stations are the highest cost item in the collection system. The capital cost for developing a sewer collection system is greatly reduced by the number of customers that are connected to each pump station. If a decision to move ahead with a separate design to serve only Allbene Park is presented, the estimated cost for the design and construction of this system is \$1,482,000.00. This project is not in the budget for the Phase 1 Divisions 1-4. The project will have to be approved by full council and then it will have to be surveyed, designed, easements obtained, permits acquired, and bids received in order to proceed with construction. The time frame for a typical project like this is about 6-12 months for design and 9-12 months for construction (15-24 months total following council approval).

#### Attachment 1A

# RICHLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069 Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2050



#### Agenda Briefing

То:	Richland County Co	uncil		
Prepared by:	Shahid Khan, Direct	or, Richland County Utilities		
Department:	Utilities			
Date Prepared:	May 14, 2019	Meeting Date:		
Legal Review			Date:	
<b>Budget Review</b>			Date:	
<b>Finance Review</b>			Date:	
<b>Other Review:</b>			Date:	
Approved for Council consideration:		Assistant County Administrator	Sand	ra Yúdice, Ph.D.
Committee				
Subject:	Design of Southeast	Water system expansion project	t (Phase	1)
	Design of Southeast	Utility System expansion		

#### **Recommended Action:**

- a. A change order to the engineering services contract with Joel Wood & Associates for the Southeast sewer expansion project. The change order would require the reallocation of funds (\$270,000) from the sewer expansion project to initiate the procurement process for engineering services for the Southeast water expansion project.
- b. Include the reallocated funds in the FY 2020 budget to replenish funds for the sewer expansion project.
- c. Replace connector along Cabin Creek Road to accommodate citizen input provided to Council in public meetings, and most recently during a Community Meeting attended by Acting County Administrator Thompson, Councilwoman Myers, and Councilwoman Newton. This addition will allow approximately 100 additional homes to connect to the sewer system, reducing overall costs. (See figure 2).

#### **Motion Requested:**

"Move that Council approve (1) the design and construction of the Southeast Water the reallocation of \$270,000 from the Southeast sewer expansion project to the Southeast water expansion project; (2) a change order to the contract with Joel Wood & Associates for the Southeast sewer expansion project to allow engineering services for Southeast water expansion project; and (3) to authorize the reallocated funds (\$270,000) to be included back in the Southeast sewer expansion project in FY 2020.

"Move that Council approve that proposed Southeast sewer expansion layout as modified to extend the sewer line along Cabin Creek to connect to the sewer line on Congaree road."

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

At this time, there is no fiscal impact for this project as previously appropriated funds will be reallocated from the sewer project to water project. Funds required are available in the allocation of engineering services for sewer expansion project. Reallocated funds will be replenished in the FY 2020 budget for the sewer expansion project.

#### Motion of Origin:

Council Member	Dalhi Myers, Vice-Chair, District 10
Meeting	n/a
Date	5/14/2019

#### Discussion:

The Southeast region has been identified as a community with urgent need for safe water supply. Currently, the majority of citizen in this region depend largely on the use of privately owned wells many of which are in poor conditions and considered a health risk to its users. The unavailability of county owned/managed water facility within this region has limited the capacity to expand water services and provide safe water supply to the citizens within the Lower Richland area. To address this need and following directives by County Council, a feasibility study was conducted and presented to Council's Development and Services Committee on October 23, 2018. This study identified areas for potential growth, recommended best engineering alternatives and the most cost-effective method to meet the desired goals for water supply in the region. Subsequently, County Council reviewed and approved the Water Feasibility Study on November 13, 2018, which recommended the system expansion for Southeast water as indicated in Fig 1 attached. It was also stated that the such system expansion will provide:

- Opportunity for safe dependable water supply and distribution system for existing customers and future users.
- Availability of a safe and dependable water source that meets SCDHEC standards to the residents.
- Prevents residences from reliance on currently contaminated individual wells for water supply.

#### Summary of Feasibility Report Southeast:

Richland County Utilities (RCU) owns, operates and maintains water systems in the planning area (i.e. Hopkins and Pond drive). The feasibility study proposed the expansion of the existing Hopkins water system. Figure 1 shows the planning areas and the recommended layout out for proposed water expansion. The proposed plan was presented as a preliminary layout with the potential to evolve to address identified needs and citizen's inputs.

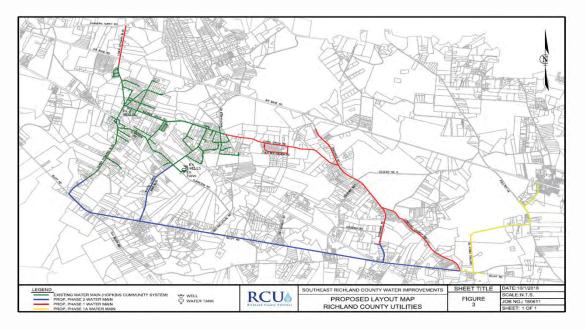
#### Pending Issue(s):

On October 2, 2019, the County Council approved the design of an amended layout for the Southeast sewer expansion project and consequently approved funds (\$750,000) to procure engineering services for the approved layout. Following the required procurement process, engineering services for the approved layout was awarded to Joel Woods & Associate. A review of the approved layout for sewer expansion and

the preliminary layout for water expansion shows that a significant portion of the proposed sewer lines will be installed along the same route of the proposed for water expansion. (See Figures 1 & 2). Typically, the design and construction of "similar" utilities (such as sewer and water lines) requires a number of project items that are either interdependent of the same activity (e.g. survey, land clearing, engineering design, permit approval etc.). Since both the sewer and water projects are within the same region, a simultaneous execution of both projects can potentially save time and total projected cost. Also, because both projects are within the same area, communications with citizens within the community is optimized to address both projects at every scheduled meeting. Richland County Utilities recently requested for a proposal from Joel Woods & Associates for engineering services for Southeast water expansion project. The proposal received is attached.

#### Attachments:

- Joel E. Wood & Associates Change Order Cost Proposal
- October 23, 2018, Presentation to the D&S Committee (excerpt)



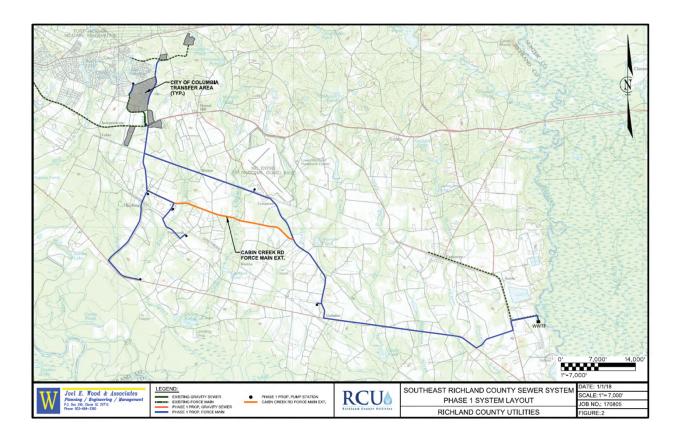
#### Figure 1: Preliminary Layout Water Expansion

RICHLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069 Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2050



#### Figure 2: Proposed Layout Sewer Expansion





#### Main Office

2160 Filbert Highway York, SC 29745

P.O. Box 296 Clover, SC 29710

Tel.: (803) 684-3390 Fax.: (803) 628-2891

#### <u>Kings Mountain, NC</u>

104 N. Dilling St. Kings Mountain, NC 28086

P.O. Box 296 Clover, SC 29710

Tel.: (704) 739-2565 Fax.: (704) 739-2565 Mr. Shahid Khan, Director Richland County Department of Utilities 7525 Broad River Road Irmo, South Carolina 29063

#### **REF:** SOUTHEAST RICHLAND COUNTY WATER PROJECT FEE PROPOSAL CO #1

Dear Mr. Khan:

In the Kick-Off Meeting for the Southeast Richland County Sewer Project on April 30, 2019, Councilwoman Myers expressed a concern that we were not also preparing plans for water lines to serve the area that will be served by the sewer project. As you know, we prepared and presented a "Feasibility Study" for providing water service to Southeast Richland County and we were the design engineers for the original Hopkins Community Water System. We are now working on field surveys and plan preparation for the Southeast Richland County Sewer System. The proposed project location for the water lines as outlined in the "Feasibility Study" is in essentially the same area that we are now working in for the sewer project. I am attaching a map showing the proposed location of the water project that is similar to the route for the Southeast Richland County Sewer Project.

Richland County staff has asked us to provide a cost to prepare plans for Phase 1 of the water system as shown on the attached map. While we are surveying in this area and providing plans for the sewer system, we can prepare the plans for submittal to South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for a lump sum fee of \$201,450.00.

Subsequently, staff has requested that we include the waterlines as shown on the attached map as Phase 1A in the revised project that will provide water service to Southeast Richland County. While we are surveying in this area and providing plans for the sewer system, we can include Phase 1A as a part of this project for a lump sum fee of \$55,000.00. This design will be done under the consideration that no new water sources (wells) or storage will be necessary. If the need for either arises during the design phase additional change orders may be required.

This change order will also include the design of a force main along Cabin Creek Road for the Southeast Richland County Sewer Project utilizing information developed on previous projects for Richland County. We can include the proposed force main extension down Cabin Creek Road as a part of this project for a lump sum fee of \$13,550.00. I am attaching a map showing the proposed location of the proposed force main extension in relation to the Southeast Richland County Sewer Project.

May 15, 2019

In addition, there could possibly be cost savings in construction if the projects are built together and the lines can be installed simultaneously. Sediment and erosion control features could be greatly reduced, the limits of disturbance would be reduced, seeding and mulching reduced and other similar items. We would be able to inspect the water and sewer projects for the same fee as in our original proposal for the sewer project and there would be no increase in construction period fees from those in our original proposal.

We have taken into consideration the variations in the routes and have included this in our cost. Richland County would be required to pay all review fees and arrange for project financing. We will provide any needed information to your financing agency for the project. Time is of the essence and we need to have an answer prior to the 30% project submittal date of June 7, 2019 for the sewer project if we are going to include the water project along with the sewer project and stay on schedule. Also, this will no longer be just a sewer project but a utility project providing both water and sewer service to the community.

As a summary see below for the lump sum fee of design for each additional item that will be added to the project scope as part of Change Order #1.

Item 1 - Southeast Richland County Water Phase 1 :	\$201,450.00
Item 2 - Southeast Richland County Water Phase 1A :	\$55,000.00
Item 3 - Cabin Creek Rd Force Main Extension :	\$13,550.00
Total Increase for CO #1 :	\$270,000.00

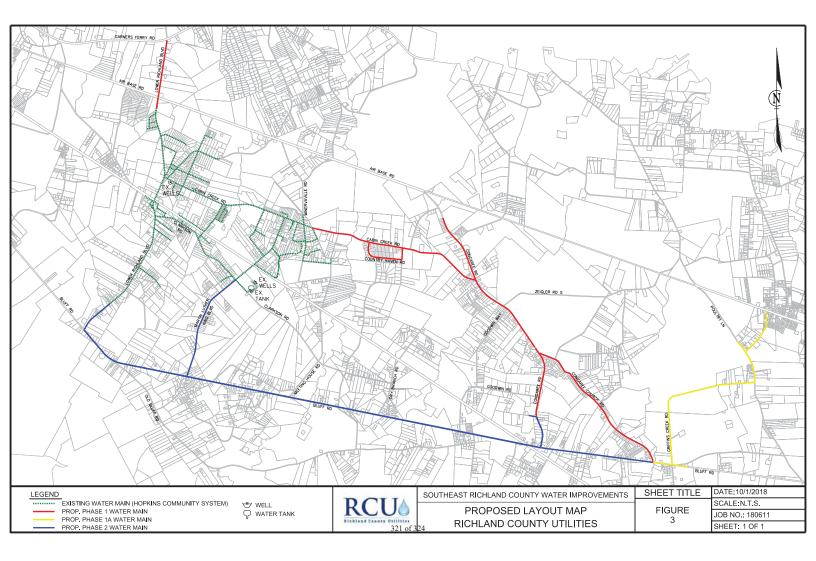
Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me. We are available to meet and discuss the proposed change in project scope at your convenience.

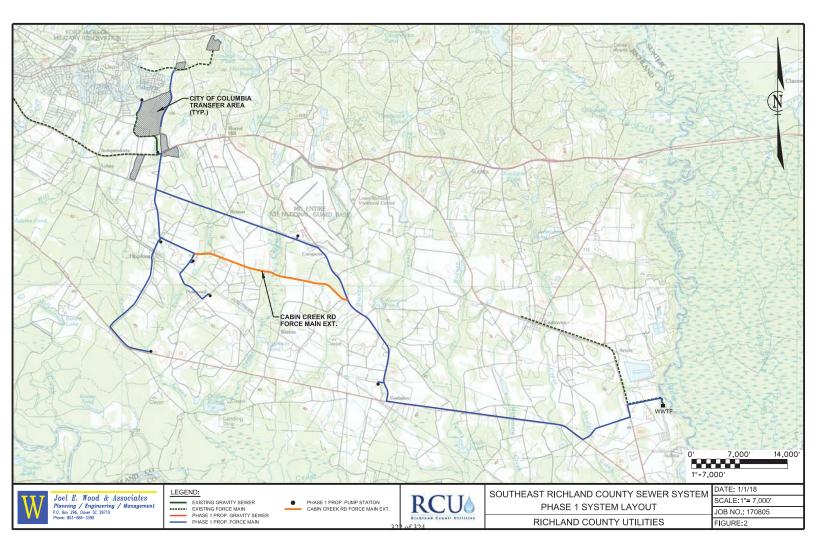
Sincerely,

JOEL E. WOOD & ASSOCIATES, L. L. C.

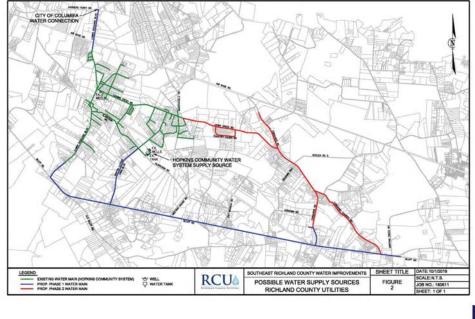
Jell wood

Joel E. Wood, PE Managing Partner





# **IV. POTENTIAL PROJECTS & WATER SOURCES**





323 of 324



JOEL E. WOOD & ASSOCIATES PLANNING • ENGINEERING • MANAGEMENT

# VII. Summary & Recommendations for Southeast Project Area

# **SUMMARY**

System Expansion Will Provide :

- Opportunity to provide safe dependable water supply and distribution system for approximately 505 existing customers and future users.
- Availability of a safe and dependable water source that meets SCDHEC standards to the residents.
- Prevents residences from reliance on currently contaminated individual wells for water supply.

The project as defined by this Report should not have an adverse impact on the environment.



324 of 324



Attachment 1 See Item 20.e, Page 24



# Richland County Council Regular Session May 21, 2019 – 6:00 PM Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Chair; Dalhi Myers, Vice-Chair; Joyce Dickerson, Calvin "Chip" Jackson, Bill Malinowski, Jim Manning, Yvonne McBride, Chakisse Newton, Allison Terracio and Joe Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Beverly Harris, John Thompson, Stacey Hamm, Eden Logan, Larry Smith, Jennifer Wladischkin, Trenia Bowers, Ashiya Myers, Sandra Yudice, Shahid Khan, Nathaniel Miller, Michael Niermeier, James Hayes, Ashley Powell, Dwight Hanna, Ismail Ozbek, John Hopkins, Tiffany Harrison, Jeff Ruble, Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Bryant Davis and Cathy Rawls

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
- 2. **INVOCATION** The invocation was led by the Honorable Joe Walker
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Joe Walker

# 4. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

- <u>Resolution Honoring the Ridgeview High School Boys' Basketball Team on their championship</u> Mr. Jackson and Mr. Manning presented a resolution to the Ridgeview High School Boys' Basketball Team.
- b. <u>Resolution in conjunction with the National recognition that Richland County recognizes May as</u> <u>Lyme Disease Awareness Month</u> – Mr. Manning presented a resolution to Ms. Arielle Riposta in honor of Lyme Disease Awareness Month.
- c. <u>A Proclamation Honoring the Magnet Schools of America 2019 National Principal of the Year Dr.</u> <u>Sabrina Suber</u> – Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Manning presented a proclamation to Dr. Suber.

#### - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 5.
- a. <u>Regular Session: May 7, 2019</u> Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to approve the minutes as presented.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

#### Regular Session May 21, 2019 -1-

6. <u>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</u> – Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to adopt the agenda as published.

Ms. Newton stated the Airport Commission vacancy needed to be added to the agenda under the Report of the Rules and Appointments Committee as Item 19(o).

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to adopt the agenda as amended.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson and Livingston

Present but Not Voting: Manning and McBride

The vote was in favor of adopting the agenda as amended.

# 7. PRESENTATION

- a. <u>Experience Columbia SC March Madness: Bill Ellen, President & CEO, Columbia Metropolitan</u> <u>Convention Center</u> – Mr. Ellen thanked Council for their support of the "March Madness" event at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.
  - Over 47,000 visitors during the 5-day period
  - All 6 games were on live TV
  - Duke vs. University of Florida game drew the largest audience of the regional games
  - Over 30 Community events were going on
  - Produced and distributed 66,619 pieces of marketing materials
  - 10 welcome tables throughout the hotels and airport
  - Over 70 volunteers that donated 326 hours of their time
  - The tournament garnered 600 media mentions of the region, which resulted in \$1.1 million worth of publicity value
  - There were 647,493 impressions on social media
  - All of the hotels in the region saw a significant increase in occupancy, which resulted in increased Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes.
  - Next time Columbia will be eligible to host is 2023, but they have start preparing in August for them to be able to submit the bid by October. The bid will be for years 2023 2026.

# 8. **<u>REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS</u> – Mr. Smith stated the following items are eligible for Executive Session.**

- a. <u>Adoption of Economic Development Policy</u>
- b. Lower Richland Sewer Agreement with the City of Columbia (Purchase Option)
- c. Administrator Search Update

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to go into Executive Session.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Newton and Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### Regular Session May 21, 2019 -2-

#### Council went into Executive Session at approximately 6:30 PM and came out at approximately 7:06 PM

Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to come out of Executive Session.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Walker, Dickerson and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Newton, Kennedy, Manning and Livingston

The vote in favor as unanimous.

a. <u>Adoption of Economic Development Policy</u> – Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to adopt the Economic Development Policy, as discussed in Executive Session.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning and Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: McBride

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Walker, Dickerson and Livingston

Present but Not Voting: Kennedy and Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

9. **<u>CITIZENS' INPUT: For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing</u> – Mr. Willie Farmer spoke about improving the SLBE experience for businesses in the County.** 

# 10 <u>**CITIZENS' INPUT: Must Pertain to Richland County Matters Not on the Agenda</u> – No one signed up to speak.</u>**

# 11. REPORT OF THE ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

a. <u>DHEC/Westinghouse Consent Agreement</u> – Dr. Thompson stated the significant portion of the consent agreement serves to investigate and remediate the contamination at the Westinghouse site, and for Westinghouse to communicate and respond to future releases of pollutants on their premises.

Mr. Jackson stated that last year Ms. Myers, and others, were having discussions with regards to whether or not appropriate level of testing was being done. He is not sure we ever got any follow-up on this matter.

Mr. Khan stated, to the best of his knowledge, DHEC has gone in and done a thorough investigation. They provided the County a copy of the results in the last few weeks. In parallel, Council approved the proceeding to do individual well testing. Approximately 60 – 80 citizens signed up for the

#### Regular Session May 21, 2019 -3-

testing and had their wells tested. The results were satisfactory, and there are no issues.

Dr. Thompson stated Council also approved for the County to a hydrology study, but because the consent agreement came forth, we are honoring what the State is doing, at this point.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, we have suspended the study.

Mr. Khan stated there was not a hydrology study approved. There was a study approved, which included the well testing. If needed, we would have taken it to the next level and conducted an additional investigation. Bear in mind, all of those actions were taken when we had limited information from DHEC, and we did not have any data. He stated DHEC has done a thorough underground geological investigation, which should serve all objectives we intended for the residents and customers.

Ms. Myers stated it would have been helpful to have had some memo, or something, so that when she met with the citizens on the Westinghouse Community Committee, she would not have told them we were continuing the County's work in parallel.

Mr. Khan stated the decision, by Administration, was to put the study on hold until we got additional information, which we got, including the consent order. Essentially, we are at a point to make a decision whether we want to continue and spend taxpayer dollars to repeat the same volume of work, or rely on a State agency, which we believe has done the job.

b. <u>Cherry Bekaert – PDT FY2017 Financial Audit</u> – Mr. Alan Robinson stated Cherry Bekaert was engaged to conduct a financial statement audit of the Richland PDT. Ms. Bonne Cox who specializes in construction contractor auditing was tasked with conducting the June 2017 PDT audit.

Ms. Cox stated they have issued their audit of the Richland PDT for the year ending June 2017. The audit results are included in the agenda packet. She stated they were engaged to audit the financial statements of Richland PDT. The engagement came to them in January 2018 under the United States Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, which are for private companies. Included in that are accounting estimates. One of the required communications is to discuss with you what those significant estimates are. In the Richland PDT financial statements, there is an estimate for allowance for doubtful accounts. While there was a delay in the timing of us being able to conduct the audit, at the end of the day they were able to obtain evidence to finish the procedures. When they reviewed and did their procedures, they had conflicting evidence, so what they have issued is a disclaimer of an audit opinion on the financial statements of the Richland PDT due to material uncertainty. They did not have any uncorrected misstatements, which are known differences when we have audit evidence that says one thing and the financial statement says something else. There were some adjustments made to the year-end statements, but those adjustments were reflected in the financial statements. There were no disagreements with management, based on what they were providing. Management signed a representation letter that states they were truthful in their inquiries and did not withhold information that would have been relevant. If they were aware that PDT management was also consulting with other independent accountants, it would be brought to Council's attention. They did have difficulty involving a legal dispute regarding the contractual arrangement with its sole customer, the County. Due to the uncertainty surrounding this ongoing legal matter, they determined it to be both material and pervasive to the financial statements of the PDT. Because of the significance they did not deem it to have sufficient evidence in order to issue an opinion on the financial statements. Another letter that was issued, is in regards to the consideration of internal controls of the financial statements of PDT. They noted 2 matters they

### Regular Session May 21, 2019 -4-

deemed significant deficiencies in internal control. One of those relates to the preparation of the financial statements and year-end adjustments. The auditors did draft the financial statements, which includes some year-end adjustments and disclosures to financial statements. Richland PDT did not do that internally, but the auditors did that. Because they drafted the statements and posted the adjustments, it was a deficiency in the internal controls of PDT. A second matter they noted, related to the internal controls of the financial controls, was the lack of segregation of duties. The joint venture subcontracts with partners, in order to perform work as vendors. They noted that change orders, for those subcontracts, and vendor invoices, were approved by management of the partner of the joint venture. As a result, there is inherent conflict of interest, due to the lack of an outside parties' involvement in the approval process of the change orders between the vendors of PDT and the partners of PDT. It was noted in the opinion letter issued that they were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements, but as discussed in Note 4 to the statements, the joint venture is involved in ongoing legal matters with its sole customers. Because multiple account balances in the statements of the joint venture are driven by the business conducted with its sole customer, the uncertainty is considered both material and pervasive in nature. Because of the significance of this matter, they have not been able to obtain sufficient evidence to issue an audit opinion on the financial statements.

Mr. Walker inquired, as it pertains to the findings, specifically the significant deficiencies, which jump off the page, in your experience is it normal for a program of this magnitude to not prepare its own financial statements.

Ms. Cox stated it is not that uncommon for people to not prepare statements internally. This is a fairly common finding in small businesses.

Mr. Walker inquired, as it pertains to publicly managed and audited funds...

Ms. Cox stated she has seen both.

Mr. Walker stated, in the findings, a conscious decision on the part of management to conduct internal financial reporting does not comply with GAAP was noted. He referenced p. 44 of the Program Management Agreement, subparagraph (3), "All financial records shall be maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures, consistently applied. Subcontractors shall do the same." He requested Mr. Smith to opine on his interpretation of the auditor's findings versus the PDT contract. Another point in the findings states, "...we noted that all change orders on subcontracts and vendor invoices were approved by management of a Partner of the Joint Venture. As a result, there is an inherent conflict of interest due to the lack of an outside party's involvement in the approval process." In this arrangement, the County would be the outside party that would typically be included in the approval process. Additionally, on p. 24 of the PDT contract, it states, "A Change Order is a written order to the Contractor signed by the County..." He inquired if that was the practice being followed.

Ms. Cox stated there was a lack of segregation of duties between the people approving changes to contracts and people receiving the benefit of those contracts.

Mr. Smith stated the audit concluded the generally accepted accounting procedures was not being followed. The specific portion of the contract, that Mr. Walker referred to, requires that all records be maintained in accordance with generally accepted account procedures. There is a specific provision in the agreement, which requires GAAP to be applied to all the financial records that are maintained. In reference to the provision regarding change orders, there is a requirement those

# Regular Session May 21, 2019 -5-

change orders be approved by the County, or County personnel. He does not know whether or not the change orders got any County approval.

Ms. Cox stated the documentation they saw, on the actual approval of the change order, had the PDT partner and then the vendor of the PDT signing off on the change order. They also saw when the amounts were invoiced to the County, the change orders were listed on the supporting documentation provided to the County. Those amounts were approved by payment by County management, so the County did see the change orders, as listed on the supporting documentation when those were submitted for payment to the County. The execution of the change order was between the Richland PDT member, partnership represented and the vendor of the PDT. There was not County signoff on that.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, the auditors had the change orders, and they were approved by the PDT and the partner receiving the benefit, but when it got to the County level was it a number on the invoice or was it a number with the change order attached.

Ms. Cox stated, when she says the change order that was approved by the partner of the PDT, and the vendor of the PDT, that is the subcontracts from the PDT to the actual contractors that were doing the work for the PDT.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, the invoices that came to us later, bore the amount of the change order, but not an approved supporting piece of paper.

Ms. Cox stated it was a supporting piece of paper, in that it was a typical construction application for payment.

Mr. Walker stated he found it interesting that this contracted party (PDT) could not, would not or otherwise chose not to provide information that could have been substantive to the audit because of the ongoing litigation. He inquired if they felt like they got everything they needed to complete a full financial audit.

Ms. Cox stated one of the standard audit procedures, they perform, is they inquire of management if there is ongoing litigation. A summary of the litigation is provided to the auditors. Typically, a confirmation letter will be sent to the entity's lawyer to have them represent their opinion on potential liability related to any pending litigation. They were made aware of the pending litigation between the PDT and the County. Management represented to them that their opinion was that they were correct, and they stood behind the amounts they had billed to the County and those were appropriate revenue to the PDT, which was the nature of the litigation between the 2 entities. PDT's attorney gave them the letter that said, "Yes, we agree. We believe that we are in the right, and the amounts that have been billed to the County, under the contract, are appropriate with the contract. The information they received from the County said exactly the opposite. Those conflicting pieces, from outside parties, were why they had to disclaim the opinion because there is no reconciling that when it comes to audit evidence.

Mr. Walker stated he is trying to figure out what to do with moving forward. He inquired if he is misinterpreting this, and is it other than what he has stated it as.

Mr. Smith stated, in terms of the issue of whether or not they were required to utilize GAAP and they did not, he thinks the contract speaks clearly that this is a requirement. On the other issue related to the change orders, he would need to see the documents Ms. Cox is referring to. To the

# Regular Session May 21, 2019 -6-

extent that there was no approval of the change orders, which he believes is what the contract calls for, that could be a potential issue that we would have to look into.

Mr. Walker stated, under Note 3 - Related party transactions, it states, "At June 30, 2017, the Joint Venture has accounts payable due to an entity related through common ownership of one of the Partners in the amount of \$105,673. The Joint Venture pays expenses to this entity for consulting services. During the year ended June 30, 2017, the Company paid \$618,274 and the amount is included in costs of revenues earned in the accompanying statement of income." He inquired, if it was ever discovered, or can you tell me what entity was presumably getting paid twice for consulting. He stated he is not being accusatory, but the PDT was engaged to be a consultant; therefore, a related party charging for the same thing concerns him.

Ms. Cox stated she did not have all of the detailed records with her, so specific names or amounts she would need to follow-up with that information. She stated related party transactions, under financial statement, and in the accounting world, means that if you have any related companies, through common ownership, then it is required disclosure of that. So, when it reads, "The Joint Venture has accounts payable to the Partners in the amount of \$105,673." Those are the actual partners of the PDT. The next paragraph that describes some dollar transactions to an entity related through common ownership of one of the partners, then that is not the actual partners of the PDT, but there is some overlap in ownership with a separate entity.

Ms. Newton stated she has read many audits, but she has never received a disclaimer before. The first thing mentioned is conflicting evidence while the audit was being conducted. For clarification, when they are referring to conflicting evidence, they are referring to the PDT's representation of the merits of our lawsuit vs. the County's representation of the merits of our lawsuit.

Ms. Cox stated that is correct.

Ms. Newton stated during the presentation it was mentioned there were material and pervasive weakness. She stated she is trying to figure out if the information received had material and pervasive weaknesses the auditor wanted to be expounded upon, or if they are saying they did not receive all of the information they would have expected to receive and that missing information is the material and pervasive weakness.

Ms. Cox stated the phrase "material and pervasive" are what they are referring to as the ongoing legal matter. They are saying the ongoing legal matter, with the conflicting audit evidence, is material and pervasive to the financial statements of PDT. Meaning it affects multiple accounts, and it is so material to the statements that they have to issue the disclaimer of opinion. The "material and pervasive" language is what the professional standards guide them to use when we are in the position to determine what type of opinion they are going to issue. If it is determined to be material and pervasive to the financial statements, then they are guided to issue a disclaimer on the opinion.

Ms. Newton inquired, if despite the dispute, they received all of the financial information they would have expected to receive, so that you could evaluate the PDT financially.

Ms. Cox stated there was no financial information, or data, they asked for that they were not provided with. It was the revenue recognition, if you will, that was the difference of opinion. PDT held that they were allowed to bill these amounts; therefore, recorded them as revenue. But, then the County came back and said, "No, this is not revenue. We are not going to pay this." That difference of audit documentation is the problem. It was not that they did not give them the data.

# Regular Session May 21, 2019 -7-

Ms. Newton stated we are required to audit the PDT annually, and we also have some auditing requirements based on the Supreme Court ruling. If we conduct an audit, and the audit has a disclaimer, but not specific findings how does that relate to the obligations that we have from an audit perspective.

Mr. Smith stated your ordinance requires that anybody that is receiving these funds must provide the County with an annual audit to show how the funds were being expended. In this instance, he does not know that this occurred. The County, through Cherry Bekaert, engaged them to do an audit, so there was not an independent audit given to us, pursuant to the ordinance, by the PDT. That is an issue, in terms of compliance, with the ordinance that required that.

Mr. Jackson inquired, if every time management is mentioned, throughout the document, they are referring to the PDT, or at any time are they referring to the County.

Ms. Cox stated, in the conduct of their audit, they are referring to the management of the legal entity of Richland PDT.

Mr. Jackson stated, in some instances, they refer to the PDT as the vendor, and other times PDT is referred to as the management.

Ms. Cox stated the legal entity PDT is a joint venture with 3 partners. Each of those entities has a partnership represented that is governed by their operating agreement. Those 3 partners also have contracts with the PDT, so they are vendors and partners of the PDT. When they say management, they mean management of the PDT, but sometimes those are the same people.

Mr. Jackson stated, when they were talking about the change orders, were they talking about the change orders from the County or change orders that were done internally, among the 3 groups.

Ms. Cox stated the change orders PDT executed with its subcontractors.

Mr. Jackson stated the question now is whether or not the PDT were allowed, or not allowed, to do change orders among their entities once they had been given the funds from the County.

Ms. Cox stated that is correct. The change orders they looked out were not between the County and the PDT. It was the change orders between PDT and its subcontractors.

Mr. Jackson inquired, in the auditor's opinion, once the authorized payments have been given to the PDT, if a change order internally, among their group, is the same as a change order they would be making to the County entity.

Ms. Cox stated what they saw was there were change orders with PDT and its subcontractors. Some of those subcontractors were related entities, and some of those subcontractors were not related entities. The process PDT followed, for executing change orders with its subs, was the same whether or not it was with PDT itself, and its members, or with outside members.

Mr. Jackson stated, for clarification, this audit was done in 2017.

Ms. Cox stated it was done for the time period of the 12-month period ending June 30, 2017. The audit began in 2018 and was completed in February 2019. The PDT's internal financial statements are maintained on a calendar year basis, so management had to put together July 1 – December 31,

# Regular Session May 21, 2019 -8-

2016 and then January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017 documentation.

Mr. Jackson inquired if they reviewed the organizational chart to determine the separation of duties, as defined in the chart presented to the County, and where the County's management and oversight was in place.

Ms. Cox stated she is not sure if it was the same organizational chart that was presented to the County. In the documentation they reviewed, they looked at names, and what that representative was for the PDT, and the name of the company, and what that representative was for that company. That is where they noted overlap. Both in title and, at times, in name.

Mr. Jackson inquired if they looked at that, in terms of those authorized signatures for approval of contracts.

Ms. Cox stated they did look at approval in the same way. They looked at the Project Manager approval, Construction Engineer approval, as well as, the approval from the County side of authorizing those disbursements. They reviewed that based on the position, and the title, corresponding to whatever entity it said it was, to ensure that the appropriate person was signing those documents.

Ms. Dickerson stated one of her concerns is the change orders. She thought if there was a request for a change order that County Council should have approved those changes. She inquired if the change orders took place between the PDT, their legal team, and whoever was paying from the County. Those 3 entities were the ones that approved those change orders, without Council members being engaged or involved in the request for change.

Ms. Cox stated she does not know what the Council was to be involved in on those change orders that were done within the PDT.

Mr. Smith stated, his understanding is, that any change orders would need to be approved by the County. His recollection is that it does not necessarily specify where in the chain that approval process may need to take place. That may be based on the dollar amount, but from what he heard them say, is that these change orders were being approved by the partners themselves of the PDT, without any 3<sup>rd</sup> party overseeing that approval.

Ms. Cox stated the documentation she saw, when they were doing the audit, was a change order between PDT and PDT's subcontractors, some of which were related to PDT, some of which were not related, in accounting terms. Those were approved by PDT directly. There was no direct sign off on that documentation by anyone from the County. The signoff from the County came when the invoice was submitted to the County for payment. The supporting documentation, which included the change orders on the pay apps was included, and they did see signoff by the County, at that point.

Ms. Myers stated she asked earlier, when the pay request came to the County, was the change order attached, and the response was, "No." It was stated that what was there was an amount. For clarification, the pay app included an amount, but not a change order.

Ms. Cox stated, what she meant by the change orders were included was, every pay app has an original contract amount, change orders to date, and then a revised contract amount. So, when she says the change orders were included, the dollar amounts of the change order were included on the

# Regular Session May 21, 2019 -9-

Ms. Myers stated the reason she is being pedantic about this is that it would mean, by the time that came, the change had been made and all that is happening is paying money.

Ms. Cox stated it is correct that the change order had already been executed.

Ms. Dickerson stated monies were being paid, without the Council seeing the request. It was done without our approval, and that is funds that were not a part of the original contract. In her opinion, that is a breach.

Ms. Cox stated that the not to exceeds were not exceeded, so it may be that it was within the thresholds and dollar amounts. She does not know at point, and at what time, it should have reached the County's procurement policy to come before Council. They were not looking at it at the Council level, but the PDT level.

Mr. Malinowski stated, based on the contract, if it states where funds should be placed until they are used for payments. According to the audit report, it says, the dollars were kept in not fully insured accounts. Secondly, it indicated they purchased certificates of deposit. The way he read the report, it stated, if any penalties were incurred because they had to cash them in, prior to the maturation of them, those penalties were handed along as a cost to do business. He is assuming the County is paying the cost. He does not know why they are putting taxpayer money into CDs anyway, and it was not the County's job. Thirdly, why was the PDT allowed to earn interest on taxpayer dollars. He inquired if the interest has been credited to the County, as a payment to them, or did they take it and include it in their profits by putting it in their own accounts. Lastly, this audit is dated February 4, 2019, and he wondered why we are getting it 3 months later.

Dr. Thompson stated he just received the report last week, or the week before. It is his understanding Cherry Bekaert provided the report to Mr. Gomeau, so obviously, as he departed, it did not get to you.

Ms. Myers stated the auditors, essentially, saw a contract that said, for an amount not to exceed \$1,000. Let's assume that, at some point, some work was done and that work was a \$500 amount. Then, there were change orders that would have been approved internally, not externally, that got up to \$1,000. We could have conceivably said there is \$500 left. Mr. Livingston what can you do? Mr. Jackson what can you do? And, then she will sign it, and we will submit the total payment for \$500, plus two \$250 change orders. She inquired if that is the finding that they are saying is concerning in the books reviewed.

Ms. Cox stated that characterized what they saw.

Ms. Myers stated it could be because there was work left, or it could be because there was money left. You make no assertion, as to which one, but it got up to the top number.

Ms. Cox stated she would not say that it got up to the top number. She would say it never went above the not to exceed.

Ms. Myers stated, on p. 24 of the contract, which deals with change orders, it states, "A Change Order is a written order to the Contractor signed by the County, issued after execution of the Contract, authorizing a change in the Services or an adjustment to the Contract Price or the

# Regular Session May 21, 2019 -10-

schedule for a Project. The Contract Price and the schedule for a Project may be changed only by an executed Change Order. A Change Order signed by the Contractor indicates its agreement herewith, including that the adjustment in the Contract Price or the schedule contained in the Change Order is sufficient to compensate the Contractor for all Claims that Contractor may have outstanding at the time the Change Order is signed by the Contractor." She inquired, on the strength of Section 10, which deals with change orders, would it be correct to say that a change order, not signed by the County, is improper.

Mr. Smith stated, even if we were talking about a situation where it was authorized by the Council, the language here seems to indicate that a change order is only appropriate after it has been signed by someone from the County.

Ms. Myers inquired if we conflict pay apps and change orders sometimes.

Dr. Thompson stated the team he assembled, when he became Director last year, does not conflict the two.

Ms. Myers stated, on p. 23 of the PDT contract, it states, "When any payment is withheld pursuant to this Section, the grounds for such withholding shall be provided to the Contractor. When the grounds for nonpayment a removed, payment shall be made for amounts withheld because of them, within 30 Days after the last ground for nonpayment is removed, provided all other conditions precedent to payment have been satisfied." Then, on p. 45 of the contract, it states, "If any inspection by County, or its representatives, of Contractor's records, books, correspondence, instructions, drawings. receipts, vouchers, memoranda and any other data relating to the Contract Documents reveals an overcharge, County may deduct said overcharge from any payments due Contractor, or, if no funds remain due to Contractor, Contractor shall, within seven (7) calendar Days of receipt of such written demand for repayment, tender the amount of such overpayment to County or otherwise resolve the demand for repayment to County's satisfaction." Under that section, it seems to her, that the materiality of the dispute is resolved under the contract because it is within the County's sole discretion. The County has the ultimate right to say whether or not an amount is due and owing, and to set off that amount, or demand payment for that amount.

Mr. Smith stated, in terms of the overpayment issue, and as it relates to the current dispute, he is not certain the dispute is an overpayment issue. He thinks it is a contract interpretation matter. We paid it and said we should not have paid it, but the terms under which we said it should not have been paid, related to the interpretation of the contract vs. their interpretation of the contract, as it relates to a specific exhibit (Exhibit F) and whether it applied or not. That particular exhibit applies under certain circumstances, which had occurred at that point.

Ms. Myers stated, let's assume the term does not apply, who gets to resolve contractual disputes. In this contract there are 4 places where contract disputes are resolved by the County. Are we not invoking that anymore? If it is here, and the reason they are demanding payment is under the contract, but also under the contract it says, "once decided by the County, these disputes are final." Why are we at the point where we cannot get an audit because we are going back and forth over whether or not \$1.5 million causes us not to be able to get a clean audit. There is some question in her mind about the magnitude of the dispute in the scheme of things, but also parties' rights. She stated we have pretty clear rights here, so she does not understand how we get to where we are standing, 2 years behind the audit. She would like the Legal Department to further look into the contract to see if we should be spending taxpayer money defending a suit. It seems to her that we have the right not to. She inquired if this is the only audit Cherry Bekaert had conducted on the PDT

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -11-

for the County.

Ms. Cox stated the audit for the 12-month period, ending June 30, 2018, is currently in process.

Ms. Myers stated, given that we are almost at the end of the contract period, it would make sense to her, pursuant to Section 5, that within the next 7 days we make a request to have a copy or originals of all books and records, so that we are at least protecting the County's ability going forward to have a record of pay apps.

Mr. Smith stated, in terms of us evaluating the audit, and the findings in the audit, and trying to marry that with the obligations under the contract. They are still in the process of doing that. They just got this information last week. He plans to bring to Council, at some point, my recommendations, as it relates to that, and how it impacts the ongoing litigation. In terms of the records, he forwarded a letter to the PDT's attorney approximately 2 weeks ago pointing out this specific section, as it relates to their obligation to maintain those records for that purpose. In addition, he sent a letter to Administration because they are in the process of determining what County assets will be brought back into the County, as it relates to the transition. In this particular letter, he pointed out this section and noted that one of the things we need to be looking at, is the books and records.

Ms. Myers inquired, in the auditor's experience, is this audit run of the mill or unusual.

Ms. Cox stated there are a couple of things that make it unusual. The audit engagement itself because we were engaged by the County, and not PDT. It is not the typical audit engagement. As far as issuing a disclaimer of opinion, she can think of one other time, in 23 years, that she has issued a disclaimer.

Ms. Newton stated there is a statement in the where it mentions the "inherent conflict of interest due to the lack of an outside party's involvement in the approval process". She stated she interpreted that to mean, if there is a partnership between "Acme Corporation", "Beta Corporation", and "Charlie Corporation" and they together form a business, and then they subcontract with a company that is owned by "Acme Corporation" and the partnership approved change orders that were essentially being provided by the partner subsidiaries.

Ms. Cox stated that is part of what was happening. Also what was happening, if Company "A", "B", and "C" came together for the joint venture, then some of those subcontractors were with Company "A", "B" and "C" directly. Then, one of the partnership representative would approve the change orders with the subcontractors.

Mr. Livingston stated normally management may get a chance to respond or give feedback on the audit. He inquired if an opportunity was afforded the PDT.

Ms. Cox stated they do not issue the audit report without management's approval of the audit report. They also provided drafts of the audit letters, which included the findings. The only response given was to issue the reports.

Mr. Walker inquired as to what led the auditors to use the language "conscious decision".

Ms. Cox stated that language is fairly common in many letters that she issues. Many times when you have relatively small organizations they will chose not to employ someone with sufficient financial

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -12-

expertise in order to fully comply with GAAP and draft a full set of financial statements with disclosures because they have decided to spend their resources elsewhere. The conscious decision is typical in a cost benefit analysis.

Mr. Walker stated a lot of the questions that are being asked are not necessarily findings that is going to turn up in a financial audit. A lot of the contractual obligations (i.e. change orders, systems, operations and things that are going on within a program) are better explored by way of a compliance audit where you would send an auditor in to look at contractual terms, and understand if those contractual terms are being followed. Are we getting what we are paying for out there in the field? In the auditor's opinion, based on what we are looking at, and as we try to make determinations on how to be the best fiduciary for the taxpayers...He stated he sees issues, and he cannot un-see them. He wants to know how he runs these to ground and determine if this program is sustainable. What he does not want to do is get to the end of this program, and there is no more joint venture, what can we do to appropriately determine if we have a program on our hands that is in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Ms. Cox stated many of the questions that have been brought up are legal and contractual interpretation. She believes, at that particular juncture, a financial statement audit is not going to answer those questions. A compliance audit takes on a lot of different contexts. Generally, a compliance audit, in this particular circumstance, might look like a performance audit, which looks into the performance of the contractor, in conjunction with the terms of the contract.

Ms. Myers requested Ms. Cox elaborate on what a performance audit is.

Ms. Cox stated, when you say the words "compliance audit" you have to define what standards you are complying with. If you are talking about a particular contract, the more specific wording and language for compliance, with a particular contract, under professional standards, would be called a performance audit.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, that would have been more appropriate, under these circumstances, to have asked for the performance audit.

Ms. Cox stated you could have requested the performance audit in addition to the financial audit. She stated, it was mentioned, the County has a requirement, in the contract, to maintain books and records in accordance with GAAP. The only way you can get that assurance is with an audit opinion.

Ms. Myers inquired, if a performance audit would quantify the value of the change orders that were approved by, and performed by essentially the same party.

Ms. Cox stated there is another set of audits called agreed upon procedures. The agreed upon procedures engagement, which follow the same standards that the financial statement audit would follow, is where you could go in and specifically define what you want to know. An agreed upon procedure engagement is an assurance engagement that you could lay out exactly what you want to know. A performance audit is going to be for the entire contract, which will involve a lot of legal interpretation.

Ms. Myers inquired if it would subsume agreed upon procedures.

Ms. Cox stated agreed upon procedures would give you the most specific direction as to what you are looking for.

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -13-

Ms. Myers inquired if the agreed upon procedures audit is what the auditors would recommend.

Ms. Cox stated, based on the questions she heard tonight, an agreed upon procedures audit would give you very specific information.

Ms. Dickerson inquired, if we retained the services of an attorney, to be housed in the County Attorney's office, to assist the County specifically with this.

Mr. Smith stated they hired an attorney to assist us with various things related to the PDT. A lot of it initially had to do with FOIA requests that we were getting. During that process, we determined some things related to the contract itself, which led us into the litigation that we are currently engaged in. At that point and time, we were also being sue by DOR and the attorney came from DOR, so we felt her knowledge would assist us in that regard.

Ms. Dickerson inquired if the Legal Department will be able to get answers to some of Council's questions, and how would the answers be provided to the Council members.

Mr. Smith stated he thinks that some of the questions that were raised have been addressed. As he said earlier, they are still in the process of looking at the audit, the contract, and the current pending matter to determine how we need to proceed. The information will be brought back to Council.

Mr. Jackson inquired about the period of the audit.

Ms. Cox stated the audit was for the period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

Mr. Jackson inquired, for clarification, that nothing was included in the audit prior to 2016.

Ms. Cox responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Jackson stated, based upon a decision by Council members that pre-date him and several of his colleagues, that whatever procedures were agreed upon, and whatever contract was agreed upon when this was created, is now left up to new members to figure out what they all agreed upon. The logic behind trying to now recreate, without information in writing, that is not available now would make your job a little difficult without concrete evidence. How do would you approach that?

Ms. Cox stated she would not expect a different result than where we are today.

Ms. McBride stated she was struck by one of the auditor's answers regarding nepotism with the partners. She stated that is a procedural issue, and she does not know if that would be wrong or not because it was according to how the contract was written, and the procedures within that contract. She does not want anyone to think that something illegal was done with these contracts, and how the hiring took place. There is so much background information that we do not have, and how this whole process started. Fortunately, we are in a position where the contract will be coming to an end soon, and we can start anew with what we have left to do.

Ms. Myers stated that all of her questions are based on the existing contract. There is a document that guides everything they are supposed to be doing, and how we are supposed to pay them. She believes looking at whether or not the procedures, in the guiding document, were followed is critical.

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -14-

Ms. Dickerson noted that the contract with the PDT has never been amended since its inception.

Mr. Walker stated he thinks action needs to be taken, as a result of this, and he would like to understand from a timing perspective, when we can expect Mr. Smith's recommendation.

Mr. Smith stated the timeline he envisioned was to allow the auditor to provide their report, and allow Council to ask questions, so that he could get a better idea of Council's concerns. He spoke with the auditors earlier and told them that he would be coming back to them to address the questions raised. They have agreed to have a telephone conference with the interested parties. He wants to make sure that when we look at this we do not lose sight of some other things that are going on that this report may impact.

Ms. McBride stated she believes all Council members want to understand what happened and how to proceed so they will not make the same mistakes.

Mr. Malinowski stated he heard conflicting things from Mr. Smith. Initially, he stated he was hoping to get something done by next Wednesday, but then at the end he requested the time to get it done. The next Council meeting will be June 4<sup>th</sup>, so he hopes we can get a report by then.

Mr. Smith stated Council will get a report by June 4<sup>th</sup>.

# 12. **<u>REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL</u>** – Ms. Roberts reminded Council of the upcoming budget meetings.

- a. <u>Upcoming Budget Meetings:</u> -- Ms. Roberts reminded Council of the upcoming budget meetings.
  - 1. May 23 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Biennium Budget (FY20 and FY21), 6:00 PM, Council Chambers
  - 2. May 30 Budget Public Hearing (FY20)
  - 3. June 6 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Biennium Budget (FY20)

Mr. Malinowski stated, due to circumstances we were advised about previously, the public hearing had to be backed up. Therefore, we had to back up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Biennium Budget for FY20. Normally, when we need to change meetings Council members are asked to provide dates, and we were not on this one. He stated he conveyed to the Chair that he had plans to be out of town at that particular time. He inquired why a date was just chosen, without input from Council members, and if 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading could be moved to the next week.

Ms. Roberts stated, if she is not mistaken, at the last budget meeting, these dates were discussed and Council agreed on these dates.

Mr. Manning stated that is his memory as well.

Mr. Manning inquired as to when the meeting invite was forwarded to Council.

Ms. Roberts stated she believes the invite was sent on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to reschedule 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Biennium Budget (FY20) to June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Newton, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -15-

Present but Not Voting: Jackson, Myers, Kennedy and Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: Myers,

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Newton, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

- b. <u>Public Works Week BBQ, May 22, 12:00 Noon, Public Works Complex, 400 Powell Road</u> Ms. Roberts reminded Council of the upcoming Public Works Week BBQ on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Noon.
- c. <u>Richland Soil and Water Conservation District's "Conservation Cookout", May 22, 6:00 PM,</u> <u>American Legion, 200 Pickens Street</u> – Ms. Roberts reminded Council of the upcoming Richland Soil and Water Conservation District's cookout on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM.
- d. <u>Committee Meetings May 23</u> Ms. Roberts reminded Council that the May committee meetings will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the Memorial Day holiday.
  - 1. Development and Services Committee 5:00 PM
  - 2. Administration and Finance Committee 6:00 PM
- e. <u>Community Relations Council's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon and Awards, June 12, 12:00 Noon,</u> <u>Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street</u> – Ms. Roberts informed Council of the upcoming Community Relations Council's Luncheon and Awards on June 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon.

## 13 REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a. <u>COMET Operating/Capital Budget</u> – Mr. Andoh stated, under the SC Code of Laws, Chapter 25 for Regional Transportation Authority Law, the COMET is supposed to get approval of their operating and capital budget before the Board of Directors can adopt the budget. He presented a brief PowerPoint with an overall of the organization and the operating and capital budget.

Ms. Newton inquired, for clarification, that the current route lines have been in place for 127 years, and there is an opportunity to reevaluate the bus system to make sure that we are going the right places and structuring the route service the proper way. What does that process look like, in terms of making that determination, and when, if at all, might it have budget implications?

Mr. Andoh stated the project will be revenue neutral. They are going to engage the stakeholders, member agencies, passengers and people that have never ridden the COMET to give feedback. There will be extensive community workshops, so that people can assist design and reimagine the new system. They are also going to gather data on what people are doing with the transit system.

Mr. Malinowski requested that the Board member listing include the municipality they represent and whether or not they are voting members. He also inquired about the makeup of the \$15 million reflected in the budget.

Mr. Andoh stated it is a summary of the contractor fixed route, the contractor DART, the reserve for service enhancements, and the Federal expense transit operations. It is difficult to break it out

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -16-

because of the way the contract is structured. They pay the contractor on a revenue vehicle service hour basis, and they break out how much goes to their administration, drivers, maintenance, and parts.

Mr. Andoh noted that he believes the system is going to be getting to a plateau with our present ridership, based on the current system design. The system is not attracting "choice" riders because it takes 3 hours to get from one point of the service area to another point of the service area, and that is not attractive. In order for us to change that trend, they need to either invest in other technology (i.e. Uber, Lyft, van pool program) or redesign it to make a system for all, and not just those that are transit dependent.

Mr. Jackson inquired, if there is not a new Penny, what will happen?

Mr. Andoh stated the short range transit plan is going to have a special chapter that talks about what the COMET system looks like without a sales tax, which would require significant service reductions. In addition, they plan to go back to the jurisdictions to see if the County and City would be willing to make a limited General Fund commitment. A lot of the systems, especially the systems he has managed in the past, generally go to the member agencies annually.

Mr. Jackson stated he would encourage Mr. Andoh to begin that. He stated he would support the efforts in trying to find an alternative way to subsidize and fund this effort.

Mr. Manning stated, stated for clarification, the Penny has been in existence for 7 years, and you are looking at the portion of that for Mass Transit to run out in 2028.

Mr. Andoh stated that is correct, and with the reserves they should be able to make it to 2029.

Mr. Manning stated, if he recalls, the Penny was going to be for 22 years or until the \$1.1 billion came in. Tracking those years is going to be important because it is easy to talk about having another vote for the Penny, but if this one has not run out that could put us in an interesting position because it would not be extending the Penny. It would be, for some period of time, adding another Penny until the other Penny quit.

Mr. Andoh stated that is why they are starting the education process early and making sure the community sees value in the transit system now. If we do not start now, we could have a situation like when the SCANA money ran out.

Mr. Malinowski stated, he thought, the COMET got the same amount each year, so they were guaranteed that amount for the 22 years.

Dr. Thompson responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if a survey had been done on the percentage of Richland residents that ride the transit system.

Mr. Andoh stated the last time a survey was done was 2009, at the request of County Council. He does not have those numbers, but can provide them to Council. He stated the study they are getting ready to undertake will do that.

Mr. Malinowski requested a copy of the proposed new routes.

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -17-

Mr. Andoh stated they 9 months to a year away from doing that. His intent would be to have the consultants go to every member agency and seek feedback.

Ms. Dickerson stated this was a City bus. It was very different, and the routes were different. Since the Penny, the routes have had to be redesigned. Now we look at it as a regional transportation system, so the dynamics has changed significantly.

Mr. Andoh stated out of 41 routes, 12.19 routes operate in the unincorporated Richland County, which equates to 29.73% of their service; 22.75 routes operate in the City limits, which equates to 55.48% of their service.

Ms. McBride requested the location for the shelters.

Mr. Andoh stated there are approximately 65 shelters throughout the service area. There are also permitting an additional 40 shelters, and they have an engineer that is aggressively trying to survey all 1,430 bus stops to determine where we can best put bus shelters.

Ms. McBride inquired about the process for selecting shelter locations.

Mr. Andoh responded, public right-of-way access, ridership of at least 50 boardings or more a day, and trip generators (i.e. County Administration, hospitals).

- b. <u>Lower Richland Sewer Agreement with the City of Columbia (Purchase Option)</u> This item was taken up in Executive Session.
- c. <u>Administrator Search Update</u> This item was taken up in Executive Session

## 14 OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. <u>An Ordinance Authorizing, pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, the execution and delivery of a fee agreement between Richland County, South Carolina and Kemira Chemicals, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware concerning a new project; authorizing and providing with respect to an existing project for the conversion of an arrangement for fee-in-lieu of tax payments between Richland County and Kemira Chemicals, Inc., under Title 4, Chapter 12, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, to an arrangement under Title 12, Chapter 44, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended; and matters relating thereto No one signed up to speak.</u>
- Authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and incentive agreement by and between Richland County and Eastover Solar LLC, a company previously identified as Project ES, to provide for payment of a fee-in-lieu of taxes; authorizing certain special source credits; and other related matters – No one signed up to speak.

## 15 APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

a. <u>19-012MA, Roger Winn, HI to GC (5.88 Acres), 8911 Farrow Road, TMS # R17200-03-06 [THIRD</u> <u>READING]</u>

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve all of the items on the agenda, up to

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -18-

Executive Session.

Mr. Malinowski made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to follow the agenda.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Newton, Myers, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Opposed: Jackson, Kennedy and Manning

The vote was in favor of the substitute motion.

Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to approve the consent item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### **THIRD READING ITEMS**

- 16.
- a. <u>An Ordinance Authorizing, pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as</u> <u>amended, the execution and delivery of a fee agreement between Richland County, South Carolina</u> <u>and Kemira Chemicals, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of</u> <u>Delaware concerning a new project; authorizing and providing with respect to an existing project</u> <u>for the conversion of an arrangement for fee-in-lieu of tax payments between Richland County and</u> <u>Kemira Chemicals, Inc., under Title 4, Chapter 12, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended,</u> <u>to an arrangement under Title 12, Chapter 44, South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended; and</u> <u>matters relating thereto</u> – Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to approve this item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson and Livingston

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

 Authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and incentive agreement by and between Richland County and Eastover Solar LLC, a company previously identified as Project ES, to provide for payment of a fee-in-lieu of taxes; authorizing certain special source credits; and other related matters – Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve this item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Walker, Dickerson and Livingston

Present but Not Voting: Myers, Kennedy and Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

### Regular Session May 21, 2019 -19-

## 17. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. <u>Total Rewards Implementation</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee forwarded the item to Council without a recommendation.

Mr. Hanna stated the recommendation is to accept the study; endorse the County working toward becoming an Employer of Choice, which includes a Total Rewards focus, authorize the County Administrator and Director of Human Resources to follow-up with employees and departments on the findings in the employee engagement responses; and authorize the Director of Human Resources to work with the consultant on the multi-year plan. As it relates to funding, there are basically 3 points. One, was the 2% pay increase, which Council approved and implemented in January 2019. The 2<sup>nd</sup> step, as it relates to funding, they propose to approve the new pay grades, and bring employees up to the minimum of those pay grades. That equates to about \$1.4 million, and funding is available in the budget. The next step would be bringing employees up to a more competitive pay structure, based on the study. The cost of that is approximately \$10 million. Mr. Hayes said there would be \$1 million available in 2020 to begin implementation of this phase.

Ms. Newton stated part of the committee's recommendation was that HR was going to provide an implementation schedule. She inquired if that is something that is going to be developed, or is HR proposing that the \$10 million be approved in FY19.

Mr. Hanna stated, on p. 252 of the agenda, there is Phase I, Phase II, Phase III and Phase IV listed. In August 2019, they would implement the \$1.4 million, with the assistance of the Finance Department. The next phase would be the \$1 million investment in January 2020. The future phases would be subject to funding being approved by the Council in the budget in subsequent fiscal years.

Ms. Newton inquired, for clarification, if the proposal in the timeline that it all be completed by FY2021, or just that we begin disbursing funds to implement the plan in 2021.

Mr. Hanna stated it would be well received by employees if we could implement it in FY2021. Being realistic, he does not think that is going to be the case.

Ms. Myers stated she has been in favor of this since the beginning, but she has also been asking for a more detailed implementation timeline. She would like to know what the timelines and what amounts of money we are planning to inject into it at each of those dates. Secondly, she inquired, if the numbers, in the agenda packet on p. 166, will bring the Public Defender's Office up to parody with Solicitor's Office. She stated, if we have lawyers coming into the Solicitor's Office, and the Public Defender's Office on equally footing, then they should be paid equal money. We should not be paying more to prosecute people than to defend them. She inquired if the Total Rewards survey has come back and included the Legal Department and the County Attorney.

Mr. Hanna stated the Total Rewards study does include the Legal Department and the County Attorney, but he will have to get back with Ms. Myers regarding the Public Defender's Office.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, once the study is implemented, EMS, Detention Center, and all of the other frontline critical care employees will be up to parody with their counterparts.

Mr. Hanna stated once the study is completely implemented the answer to the question is "yes".

Ms. Myers stated the reason she has consistently requested a clear implementation schedule was so

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -20-

Council could decide if they wanted to be more aggressive and phase it in earlier, or if they wanted to move money from other places and get it done. Without the information it is hard for her to advocate to get that, and talk with her colleagues to see if we can do it in a shorter period of time.

Mr. Hanna stated they need approximately \$11.4 million to completely implement the study. In talking with Mr. Hayes, as it relates to the current available budget, we have the \$1.4 million to bring the employees up to the minimum and another \$1 million that would be available in January 2020.

Ms. Myers stated Mr. Hayes gave them a listing last week of a lot of different funds where there was money. If you would be a little bit more aggressive, there might be people on Council that would be willing to get the salaries where they need to be.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to defer this item to the June 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Walker, Dickerson and McBride

**Opposed:** Livingston

Present but Not Voting: Kennedy and Manning

The vote was in favor.

## 18. **REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

- 18.
- a. <u>Authorizing the expansion of the boundaries of the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park jointly</u> <u>developed with Fairfield County to include certain property located in Richland County; the</u> <u>execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement to provide for infrastructure credits to</u> <u>North Main Senior, LLC; and other related matters [FIRST READING]</u> – Mr. Jackson stated the committee recommended approval of this item.

Mr. Malinowski stated he does not recall that we usually approve credit agreements that is being located within a municipality.

Mr. Ruble stated, as you may recall in years past, affordable housing projects were not taxed. The Federal law changed requiring that the entities had to be for profit, in order to take advantage of Federal credits. In doing that, the Federal law put many of these developers in a quandary. If they became for profit to receive these credits, they also became obligated to pay County taxes, which made the deals undoable. They are trying to do a work around at the General Assembly, but they have not got that accomplished. In the meantime, they have come to us and said, "You were not getting these taxes in the past anymore. Would you be willing to do a tax credit, in order to help us achieve our goals?" And the response from the Economic Development Committee, was yes, we think affordable housing is important.

Mr. Malinowski inquired why they get 60 days to pay their administrative fees.

Mr. Ruble stated the question of administrative fees came up in the Economic Development Committee, and the committee asked for, received and reviewed the pro forma.

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -21-

Ms. Terracio inquired if the project was already under construction.

Mr. Ruble stated he believes the groundbreaking is scheduled soon.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Walker, Dickerson and Livingston

Present but Not Voting: Kennedy, Manning and McBride

The motion for reconsideration failed.

## 19. **REPORT OF THE RULES AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

- I. NOTIFICATION OF VACANCIES
  - a. <u>Accommodations Tax Three (3) Vacancies (2 applicants must have a background in the lodging industry and 1 applicant must have a background in the cultural industry)</u>
  - b. <u>Hospitality Tax Three (3) Vacancies (2 applicants must be from the Restaurant Industry)</u>
  - c. <u>Employee Grievance Committee Six (6) Vacancies (Must be a Richland County employee; 2</u> <u>seats are alternates)</u>
  - d. <u>Board of Assessment Appeals Three (3) Vacancies</u>
  - e. <u>Board of Zoning Appeals Four (4) Vacancies</u>
  - f. <u>Building Codes Board of Appeals Four (4) Vacancies (1 applicant must be from the</u> <u>Architecture Industry; 1 from the Gas Industry; 1 from the Building Industry; and 1 from the</u> <u>Fire Industry as alternates)</u>
  - g. <u>Procurement Review Panel Two (2) Vacancies (1 applicant must be from the public procurement arena and 1 applicant must be from the consumer industry)</u>
  - h. <u>Planning Commission Four (4) Vacancies</u>
  - i. Internal Audit Committee Two (2) Vacancies (applicant with CPA preferred)
  - j. <u>Community Relations Council Two (2) Vacancies</u>
  - k. Library Board Four (4) Vacancies

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -22-

- l. <u>Township Auditorium Board Two (2) Vacancies</u>
- m. <u>Richland Memorial Hospital Board Two (2) Vacancies</u>
- n. <u>Midlands Workforce Development Board One (1) Vacancy (Education seat; must represent</u> education sector.
- o. <u>Airport Commission One (1) Vacancy</u>

Ms. Newton stated the committee recommended to advertise for the vacancies.

In Favor: Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Terracio and Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

## 20. OTHER ITEMS

a. <u>FY19 – District 4 Hospitality Tax Allocations</u> – Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve this item.

Ms. Myers requested Ms. Dickerson amend the motion to include the H-Tax allocation requests for District 11 and District 10, which are on the "Additional Motions List".

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

The motion for reconsideration failed.

b. <u>FY19 – District 7 Hospitality Tax Allocations</u> – Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve this item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

### Regular Session May 21, 2019 -23-

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

The motion for reconsideration failed.

c. <u>FY19 – District 11 Hospitality Tax Allocations</u> – Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve this item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

The motion for reconsideration failed.

d. <u>FY19 – District 10 Hospitality Tax Allocations</u> – Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve this item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Walker

The motion for reconsideration failed.

## e. <u>Design of Southeast Water System Expansion Project (Phase I)</u> – Mr. Khan stated they are

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -24-

requesting, at this point, is to allow us to utilize the available funding in the Southeast Wastewater Project, and do the Southeast Water Project design and engineering, in conjunction with the wastewater project. Several months back, we had a presentation regarding water accessibility and feasibility to several parts of Richland County. This is one of the areas that was recommended, and blessed during that meeting. If acceptable to you, they could do the design and engineering of 2 projects in the same corridor and save some costs.

Mr. Malinowski inquired as to who came up with this idea originally, staff or Ms. Myers.

Mr. Khan stated it was a project that was identified by staff.

Mr. Malinowski stated under recommended action there is an amount of \$270,000. He inquired if that is the total cost, or will there be a request for additional funds.

Mr. Khan stated for the design and engineer of the project, as shown is the briefing document, that will be the total cost. If there are changes going forward, there will be a need for additional funding.

Ms. Myers stated this is not a pet project that she brought forward. This was the water project that we approved last year, but we did not approve the money to go with it. Because the engineering company is already out in the field doing the engineering for the Southeast wastewater, Mr. Khan suggested rather than sending them back out separately, to let them do both of them at the same time.

Mr. Khan stated we are saving as much as we are spending on this project.

Mr. Livingston inquired if we are appropriating funds from the 2020 budget.

Mr. Khan stated they have an existing contract that has an amount of \$270,000 available, which will not be utilized until Quarter 1 of 2020. In the near future, they will be bringing a CIP in front of you which will include the services for both of those projects. The design for both projects will be done at the same time. For construction engineering services there will be additional amounts needed, which will be presented to you as part of the CIP. If approved, they will go forward with the construction stage. Essentially, they are taking money out and reallocating it temporarily and will replenish it in the 2020 budget.

Ms. Myers stated the urgency of the request is that they are already out in the field doing the engineering now, and if we wait it will be \$400,000.

Mr. Hayes stated, for clarification, funds are currently in the CIP fund. Mr. Khan is saying they are going to reallocate funding that set aside totally for sewer, and use a portion of it for water. Then, when the budget is approved for FY20 to replenish those funds.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to approve staff's recommendation.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to reconsider this item.

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -25-

### Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

### Present but Not Voting: Manning

### The motion for reconsideration failed.

21. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to go into Executive Session.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

**Opposed:** Manning

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote was in favor of going into Executive Session.

#### Council went into Executive Session at approximately 10:00 PM and came out at approximately 10:56 PM

Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to come out of Executive Session.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Walker, Dickerson and Livingston

Present but Not Voting: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

a. <u>Lower Richland Sewer Agreement with the City of Columbia (Purchase Option)</u> – Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Terracio, to direct staff to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, and bring back information for the June 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Malinowski

The vote in favor was unanimous.

b. <u>Administrator Search Update</u> – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to begin discussion with the candidate regarding the negotiations for the contract.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

## Regular Session May 21, 2019 -26-

# 22. MOTION PERIOD

 a. <u>Resolution Honoring John Bryant Lint for earning the rank of Eagle Scout on April 2, 2019</u> [MALINOWSKI] – Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to adopt the resolution for John Bryant Lint.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Newton, Myers, Kennedy, Manning, Walker, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Jackson

The vote in favor was unanimous.

23. **ADJOURN** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:58 PM.

Regular Session May 21, 2019 -27-

### Attachment 1C

## RICHLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069 Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2050



### **Agenda Briefing**

To:	Committee Chair Joyce Dickerson and Members of the Committee							
Prepared by:	Jenniter Wiadischki	Jennifer Wladischkin, Procurement Manager						
Department:	Finance - Procurem	Finance - Procurement Division						
Date Prepared:	November 22, 2019	November 22, 2019 Meeting Date: December 17, 2019						
Legal Review	Elizabeth McLean vi	ia email	Da	ate:	November 27, 2019			
<b>Budget Review</b>	James Hayes via em	ail	Da	ate:	December 04, 019			
<b>Finance Review</b>	Stacey Hamm via er	mail	Da	ate:	December 04, 2019			
Approved for Council consideration: Assistant County Administrator Ashley M. Powell, Assoc. AIA, AIC								
Committee	Administration & Finance							
Subject:	SE Sewer and Water Project award of Division 1 & 2							

#### **Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends that the County Council approves the awarding of construction of Division I and II of the SE Sewer and Water Project to Tom Brigman Contractors, contingent on the appropriation of bond funds.

#### **Motion Requested:**

Move to approve staff's recommendations as noted above.

Request for Council Reconsideration: 

Yes

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

The funding will be provided through Utilities System Revenue Bonds not to exceed \$35,000,000. The County Council approved Third Reading of the bond ordinance at its December 3, 2019 meeting.

#### **Motion of Origin:**

There is no associated Council motion of origin.

Council Member	
Meeting	
Date	

#### **Discussion:**

The project is necessary to provide access to public sewer service to existing residences, small businesses, government offices and churches in the southeast area of Richland County which do not currently have access to a public sewer system. Additionally, the project will provide access to public sewer service of up to five (5) existing private wastewater treatment facilities to connect to the system and eliminate their current discharges. Consequently, it will also re-direct existing wastewater flow from the residents, schools, and businesses in the vicinity of Garners Ferry Road (US Highway 378) to the County system per Intergovernmental Agreement signed on September 23, 2019 instead of flowing to the City of Columbia.

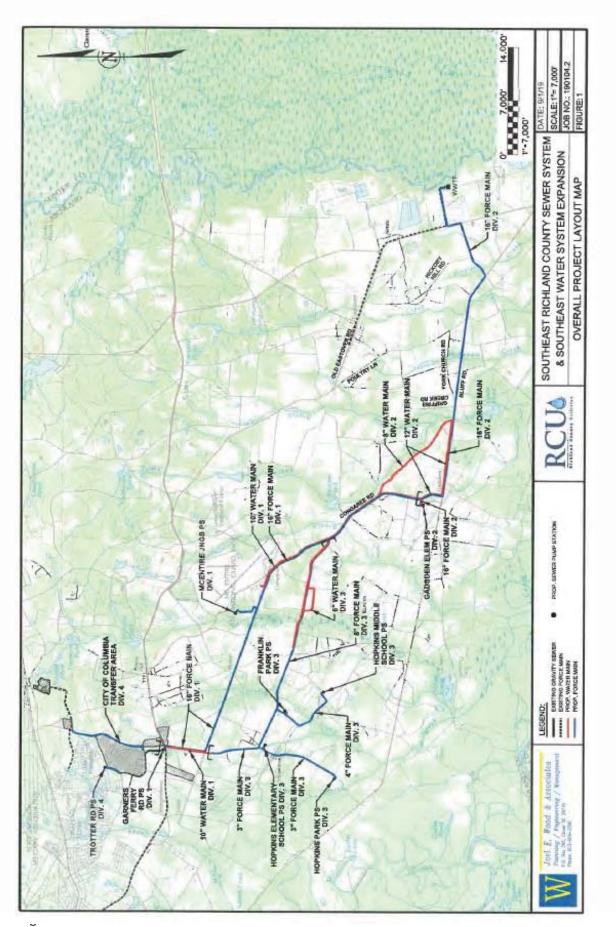
Procurement issued a solicitation for bids for construction on October 11, 2019. A mandatory pre-bid was held on October 22 at the Decker Center which was attended by over 30 prime contractors and subcontractors. The bid was divided into four divisions, to be awarded individually. Seven contractors submitted bids which were opened on November 13, 2019. There were three (3) bids for Division I, four (4) bids for Division II, one (1) bid for Division III and one (1) bid for Division IV. Attached is the breakdown of the bid tabulation by division.

The estimated total construction cost for Division 1 & 2 was \$18,315,000. The lowest bids we have received were from Tom Brigman Contractors with total construction cost of \$14,980,962.05.

The estimate for construction of Division 3 was \$6,042,000.00. The only bid received for Division 3 was \$9,996,337.00. The estimate for construction of Division 4 was \$1,965,000.00, and the only bid received for Division IV was \$3,962,372.00. Staff recommends no award for Divisions III and IV and will reissue a Request for Bid for those two Divisions.

#### **Attachments:**

- 1. SE Sewer & Water Map
- 2. Bid Tabulation by Division
- 3. Engineer's Recommendation



Page 56 of 88 58 of 110

Attachment 2

Solicitation/Quote Number:	Date Issued:	Due Date: 11/13/19	PAGE_1OF2
RC-254-B-2020	10/11/19	Time Due: 2:00PM EST	
Department:	Requisition#	Buyer:	Number of Addendum(s)
Utilities		Jennifer Wladischkin	Issued: 2
Representative:	Purchase Order Number:	Bid Bond % 5	Apparent Low Bidder:

				<b>Tabulation</b>	Sheet		
Item #	Supplies/Services/Equipment	U/I	Qty	Vendor: Tom Brigman Const	Vendor: CBG	Vendor: McClam	Vendor: DS Utilities
1	Division 1			\$8,124,000.99 No discount	No bid	No bid	\$8,930,794.80 No discount
2	Division 2			\$6,856,961.06 No discount	\$8,274,676.25 No discount	\$7,515,460.88 No discount	No bid
3	Division 3			No bid	No bid	No bid	No bid
4	Division 4			No bid	No bid	No bid	No bid
	TOTAL			\$14,980,962.05	\$8,274,676.25	\$7,515,460.88	\$8,930,794.80
Name Jennife	& Title of Certifying Official:				Name & Title of As	sistant:	
Signat	ure				Signature		
Date 11/13/20	019				Date		

RCDP 20180611

59 of 110

Solicitation/Quote Number:	Date Issued:	Due Date: 11/13/19	PAGE 2 OF 2
RC-254-B-2020	10/11/19	Time Due: 2:00PM EST	
Department:	Requisition#	Buyer:	Number of Addendum(s)
Utilities		Jennifer Wladischkin	Issued: 2
Representative:	Purchase Order Number:	Bid Bond % 5	Apparent Low Bidder:

## **Tabulation Sheet**

Item #	Supplies/Services/Equipment	U/I	Qty	Vendor: Stutts & Williams	Vendor: TCO Construction	Vendor: Legacy*	Vendor:
1	Division 1			\$11,166,245.00 No discount	No bid	No bid	n
2	Division 2			No bid	\$7,638,991.52 No discount	\$8,166,393.00 No discount	
3	Division 3			\$9,996,377.00 No discount	No bid	No bid	
4	Division 4			\$3,962,372.00 No discount	No bid	No bid	
							+
	TOTAL			\$25,124,994.00	\$7,638,991.52	\$8,166,393.00	
	& Title of Certifying Official:				Name & Title of Assi	istant:	
Signat	ure				Signature		
Date 11/13/20	019			1	Date		

\*Legacy flagged as non-responsive, did not complete all sections of the bid. Due to Legacy being the third lowest bid no further determination will be forthcoming unless the lowest then the second lowest bidders fail to go to contract.

RCDP 20180611

60 of 110

Attachment 3

November 19, 2019



JOEL E. WOOD & ASSOCIATES

#### PLANNING • ENGINEERING • MANAGEMENT

#### Main Office

2160 Filbert Highway York, SC 29745

P.O. Box 296 Clover, SC 29710

Tel.: (803) 684-3390 Fax.: (803) 628-2891 Ms. Jennifer Wladischkin, CPPM Procurement Manager Richland County Government 2020 Hampton Street, Suite 3064 Columbia, SC 29204

## REF: RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD CONTRACT BID ID # RC-254-B-2020 RICHLAND COUNTY SOUTHEAST SEWER AND WATER PROJECT

Dear Ms. Wladischkin:

#### Kings Mountain, NC

104 N. Dilling St. Kings Mountain, NC 28086

P.O. Box 296 Clover, SC 29710

Tel.: (704) 739-2565 Fax.: (704) 739-2565 On November 13, 2019 Richland County Procurement received Bids for the above referenced project. We were provided a copy of the "Bid Tabulation" by the Procurement Office for our review.

After completing my review and checking of the Bids, I recommend that the County make an award of Division 1 and Division 2 for the above referenced project to Tom Brigman Contractors, Inc. for \$8,124,000.99 (Division 1) and \$6,856,961.06 (Division 2) for a total of \$14,980,962.05 for both Divisions. The total for both Divisions is below the "Engineer's Estimate" for the two Divisions. The recommendation to award is contingent upon availability of funds for the project.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

JOEL E. WOOD & ASSOCIATES, P. L. L. C.

yelena

Joel E. Wood, P.E., Managing Partner

Attch. CC. RCU

Page 59 of 88 61 of 110



# **Richland County Council**

## SPECIAL CALLED MEETING December 17, 2019 – Immediately Following Zoning Public Hearing Council Chambers 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Livingston, Chair; Dalhi Myers, Joyce Dickerson, Calvin "Chip" Jackson, Bill Malinowski, Jim Manning, Yvonne McBride, Chakisse Newton and Allison Terracio

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Onley, Kim Williams-Roberts, John Thompson, Ashiya Myers, Ashley Powell, Angela Weathersby, Geo Price, Allison Steele, Brad Farrar, James Hayes, Stacey Hamm, Judy Carter, Jeff Ruble, Tariq Hussain, Chris Eversmann, Beverly Harris, Clayton Voignier, Leonardo Brown, Larry Smith, Sandra Haynes, Denise Teasdell and Dwight Hanna

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 7:20 PM.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. <u>Special Called Meeting: December 10, 2019</u> – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. Manning, to approve the minutes as distributed.

Mr. Malinowski stated, at the end of the meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, the meeting had adjourned and the Administrator indicated there was an item that needed to be reconsidered. Therefore, we reconvened the meeting and reconsidered Item 17(b) "Authorizing the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$175,000,000 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2020, or such other appropriate series designation, of Richland County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the notes; providing for the payment of the notes and the disposition proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto", but it is not reflected in the minutes. He understands the reason it is not reflects is that all of the recording equipment had been turned off; therefore, there is not an audio/video record of the vote(s). He requested the action(s) be added to the minutes prior to the minutes being posted online.

Ms. Myers responded that Mr. Malinowski was correct and that she simply took a voice vote on reconvening the meeting, reconsideration of the item, and adjournment of the meeting.

Ms. Terracio inquired if the votes were unanimous.

Mr. Malinowski responded the votes were not unanimous.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. Manning, to approve the minutes as amended.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Opposed: Malinowski and Manning

The vote was in favor.

3. <u>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</u> – Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to adopt the agenda as published.

Mr. Malinowski stated we have transferred the entire D&S and A&F agendas to the Special Called Meeting agenda for action. Normally, we have a week, at least, to be able to review what took place at the committee meeting(s). Some people are not even on one or the other committee, and may not have been at the meeting to hear the discussion, and get pertinent information to cast a vote. It seems to him, if these are not time sensitive matters, he does not know why we are rushing to put them on the Council agenda.

Mr. Brown stated during the A&F Committee meeting there were two (2) items that were added to the "Items for Action"; therefore, they need to be added to the Council agenda for action, as well. Those items are as follows:

- a. Approval of Award for Engineering Services Kneece Road Sidewalk Design
- b. Approval of Award for Engineering Services Longreen Parkway Sidewalk Design

Mr. Manning stated, for clarification, these items were published as items not for action. Then, they were moved to action, in the committee, and now they are being added to the Council agenda. He stated he wanted to echo Mr. Malinowski's concerns about the other items. He feels like if an item was published for action, and he was not on the committee, but he had an interest in knowing what was going on, particularly when the agenda that was published for tonight's meeting did not have it. For the record, when he reads the agenda, he can tell whether the item is for action or not.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to adopt the agenda as amended.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Opposed: Malinowski and Manning

The vote was in favor.

#### 4. **REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

- a. <u>Richland County vs. SC Dept. of Revenue</u>
- 5. **<u>REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR</u>** No report was given.
- 6. **<u>REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL</u>** No report was given.
- 7. **<u>REPORT OF THE CHAIR</u>** No report was given.

#### 8. **<u>REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE</u>**

a. <u>Approval to Develop and Advertise CTC Funded Projects</u> – Ms. Terracio stated the committee recommended to direct County staff to proceed with project development, staff design and advertisement for construction of the repair and resurfacing projects of the roads/intersections named herein using the "C" Funds previously approved by the CTC.

Mr. Malinowski noted on p. 29 of the agenda Riverwalk Subdivision is listed as District 1, when it is actually in District 2.

Mr. Manning stated that Mr. Malinowski had brought this to the committee's attention, prior to them taking action on the item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- b. <u>County Sidewalk Program</u> This item was held in committee.
- c. I move that Richland County undertake a study regarding the existence/prevalence of PFAS groundwater and soil throughout the County. If desired, the County should coordinate with all municipalities within its boundaries to derive a comprehensive study on these harmful chemicals, and if necessary or warranted, a plan for corporate remediation [MYERS] – This item was held in committee.

#### 9. **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

 <u>Memorandum of Understanding – COMET – Mapping Services</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to approve the MOU, to correct the name of the entity from COMET to CMRTA/COMET, and include the CMRTA/COMET address on the last page of the MOU.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

 <u>Approval of Award of Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) funding</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to approve the award HOME funds in the amount of \$528,144.00 to Community Assistance Provider for the construction of a four unit townhouse in the New Castle/Trenholm Acres master plan area.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Opposed: Malinowski

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Terracio, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: Malinowski

Opposed: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

c. <u>Approval of Award of Southeast Sewer and Water Project – Division 1 & Division 2</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to approve the awarding of construction of Division I and II of the SE Sewer and Water Project to Tom Brigman Contractors, contingent on the appropriation of bond funds.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

d. <u>Approval to Purchase Mobile Data Routers for Fire Vehicles</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to approve the purchase of Sierra Routers including support equipment, installation and system start-up support in the amount of \$152,626.80 from Simple Com Technologies.

Mr. Malinowski noted in the committee meeting that one of the requirements for sole source procurement states that it must be justified with information on the efforts undertaken to locate alternative suppliers. That was not presented to us; therefore, he is recommending in the future that information is included.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

e. <u>Broad River WWTF Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Upgrade – Diffusers replacement</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to approve awarding replacement of diffusers in the sequential batch reactor (SBR) to Republic Contracting Corporation.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Newton and Manning

f. <u>Intergovernmental Agreement – Municipal Judge – Town of Blythewood</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to accept the Chief Magistrate's recommendation to enter into an IGA with the Town of Blythewood for the municipal judge.

Mr. Livingston noted there was discussion at the committee meeting about additional language being included in the IGA.

Mr. Smith stated the recommendation was to change the language to ensure that any additional compensation due to the municipal judge that the FICA and all other benefits are paid by the municipality, and not the County.

Mr. Malinowski stated, for the record there are scrivener's errors, and he will provide the corrections to the Clerk's Office.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Jackson and Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but not Voting: Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

g. <u>Approval of Award for Engineering Services – Kneece Road Sidewalk Design</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to move forward with the award of Engineering Services for the Kneece Road Project, unless somebody in the awarding entity, be it a subcontractor or whoever, has some type of a lawsuit or claim with the County.

In Favor: Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

**Opposed: Terracio and Newton** 

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: Terracio and Newton

Opposed: Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

h. <u>Approval of Award for Engineering Services – Longreen Parkway Sidewalk Design</u> – Ms. Dickerson stated the committee recommended to move forward with the award of Engineering Services for the and Longreen Parkway Sidewalk Project, unless somebody in the awarding entity, be it a subcontractor or whoever, has some type of a lawsuit or claim with the County.

In Favor: Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

**Opposed: Terracio and Newton** 

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: Terracio and Newton

Opposed: Malinowski, Jackson, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

#### 10. OTHER ITEMS

a. <u>Polo Rd. Sidewalk Project</u> – Ms. Steele stated originally Polo Road and Harrison Sidewalk Projects were bid together. The prices that came in were well above the cost estimates; therefore, they were rebid separately. The bids were lower, but they are still over the cost estimate, and the referendum amount. Staff has provided three options: (1) Award the contracts to the lowest bidder; (2) Rebid the projects to attempt to get lower prices; or (3) Attempt to descope the projects.

Ms. Myers inquired if staff has a preferred way forward, which makes the most sense for the project to be completed efficiently, quickly and honors the request from Council.

Mr. Brown stated these projects were within the communication Council received about 50 of 56 sidewalks. Since there was a separate discussion to ensure that we were approving projects within a certain amount, questions came up regarding these projects. The communication from Council was to approve these projects, but we wanted to make sure, in approving these projects, it was consistent with Council's understanding of moving forward with 50 of the 56 sidewalks.

Ms. Myers inquired if it was relevant that they are, or are not, within the referendum.

Mr. Brown stated it is a communication to make sure that we are clear. There were a lot of questions that came up, and we wanted to ensure that these are the 50 of 56 you previously wanted to approve.

Ms. Myers inquired if this was a duplicative vote.

Mr. Brown responded it is not a duplicative vote. It is a clarity vote to make sure that staff is clear because there were questions that came up about projects that are under the referendum, and projects that are not. These two (2), by themselves, may not meet the guidelines to be under the referendum. However, when you took a vote to say 50 of the 56, these were included. Staff wants to make sure they do not get a follow-up conversation as to how these projects got approve, when they did not individually fall under the referendum amount.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, these two (2) will be over the referendum, but will they be over the referendum amount for the category.

Mr. Brown stated the category will still be under the referendum.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, in total we will be under the referendum amount. These two (2) were scoped over the referendum amount, but because we have taken five (5) off the list we have the funding to do these.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski inquired about the other six (6) sidewalk projects, and why we are not moving forward with them.

Mr. Brown stated Council approved, prior to tonight, to do 50 of 56 sidewalk projects. To which, at that time, it was communicated you could do these 50 and be under the category's referendum amount. During the course of these conversations, some questions came up related to specific projects, and whether or not they were approved individually, and were individually over the referendum amount. Because staff is trying to make sure they are doing a better job of carrying out what Council's directive are, they wanted to clarify, and make sure you were aware, that individually, these specific projects may be over the referendum amount, by themselves, but in total it is consistent with what you have already approved.

Mr. Malinowski stated he understood that, but he would like to know what happened to the other six (6) projects.

Mr. Brown stated nothing happened to the projects.

Mr. Malinowski stated, for clarification, there are six (6) other projects that could be funded, if funding were available.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski inquired as to what happens if there is an excess amount of funding, or the funding is not totally used within a particular category.

Mr. Brown stated you would have the opportunity, within that category, to address additional projects that were not addressed. The funds will remain in the specific category until Council decides how the funds will be expended.

Mr. Jackson requested Dr. Thompson to make sure the public, and Council, are fully aware of what happened with the other six (6) projects.

Dr. Thompson stated we have enough money to do 50 of the 56 sidewalk projects. Should we have additional funding, then we will be able to work on the remaining six (6) projects. He stated staff will provide Council a list of the remaining six (6) projects, as well as the projected amount to complete those projects.

Ms. McBride stated these projects have been voted on several times. They have been vetted through the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee, and Council has previously voted on it.

In Favor: Jackson, Myers, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski and Newton

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Newton and Myers

Opposed: Jackson, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- b. <u>Harrison Rd. Sidewalk Project</u> This item was approved in the previous item.
- c. <u>Approval of Grants for Blythewood Industrial Park</u> Mr. Ruble stated we are eligible to receive \$2.37M in grants to kick start the Blythewood Industrial Park. The approvals were not received prior to the last Council meeting, and Council has to vote to receive the grant before a budget can be set up. Once the budget is set up, then they can begin the procurement process to hire an Engineer to design the site. After the Engineer designs the site, they have to go through a 2<sup>nd</sup> procurement process to hire the contractor to do the work. All of this has to be accomplished in a 18-month period, which puts a tight time constraint on getting this accomplished.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve this item.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the proper zoning has been received for this property.

Mr. Ruble responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski requested Mr. Ruble to explain what is meant by "The SC DOC and SC PowerTeam grants are reimbursable."

Mr. Ruble stated they do the work and submit documentation the money was spent, and we are reimbursed those funds.

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE** – Mr. Jackson stated, as Chair of the Economic Development Committee, this is a tremendous opportunity for the County, in terms of the funding we are going to receive to move the Blythewood Industrial Park forward. One of the main issues in insuring that it is occupied quickly is to have this infrastructure work done. In identifying funds, from other partners, to make that happen, sooner than later, is why this is such a big deal.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to reconsider this item.

Opposed: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The motion for reconsideration failed.

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to go into Executive Session.

In Favor: Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Opposed: Malinowski, Jackson and Manning

Present but Not Voting: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

#### Council went into Executive Session at approximately 7:57 PM and came out at approximately 8:25 PM

Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to come out of Executive Session.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

Present but Not Voting: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

a. <u>Richland County vs. SC Dept. of Revenue</u> – No action was taken.

#### 19. MOTION PERIOD -

- a. In my continued decade long battle for accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness., I move that all County Council standing committees, ad hoc committees and one time/short term committee meetings be held in Council Chambers, as is the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee, with votes recorded in like fashion [MANNING] This item was referred to the Rules and Appointments Committee.
- b. <u>Consider moving the Horizon meeting to Tuesday and have delivery of finished agendas to Council</u> members by Thursday close of business [MALINOWSKI, McBRIDE, MYERS, NEWTON and TERRACIO]
   – Staff was directed to bring back a recommendation at the next Council meeting.
- c. <u>Resolution Honoring Dutch Fork High School Football team on winning their 4<sup>th</sup> straight championship [MALINOWSKI]</u> Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to adopt the resolution honoring Dutch Fork High School Football team on winning their 4<sup>th</sup> straight championship.

In Favor: Terracio, Malinowski, Jackson, Newton, Myers, Manning, Dickerson, Livingston and McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Malinowski thanked Ms. Roberts for the holiday decorations in Chambers.

20. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:29 PM

Special Called Meeting December 17, 2019 10

Page 69 of 88

## Attachment 2

## **Bill Davis**

From:	TARIQ HUSSAIN
Sent:	Friday, December 4, 2020 11:16 AM
То:	Dalhi Myers; CHAKISSE NEWTON
Cc:	Bill Davis; JOHN THOMPSON; LEONARDO BROWN
Subject:	Weekly Summary and Weekly Forecast Reports (12/04/2020)
Attachments:	12-04-2020 Summary Report.pdf; 12-07-2020 Weekly Forecast_SESWEP.pdf; OVERALL
	WATER MAP 12_3_20.pdf; OVERALL SEWER MAP 12_3_20.pdf

Good afternoon, the Honorable Councilwoman Myers and Councilwoman Newton,

Please find the attached weekly summary and next week's forecast report for the Southeast Sewer & Water Expansion Project. To date, 82 fire hydrants have been installed as part of this expansion project. The contractors will have a slower work schedule through December due to the holidays and equipment deliveries.

Please find attached updated maps for the project.

Best,

Jani Tariq Hussain Deputy Director P 803-401-0045 HUSSAIN.TARIQ@richlandcountysc.gov



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### MEMORANDUM

TO:	The Honorable Dalhi Myers, Richland County Council, District 10 The Honorable Chakisse Newton, Richland County Council, District 11
FROM:	Bill Davis, Director of Utilities John M. Thompson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM, Assistant County Administrator
Date:	December 4, 2020
Subject:	Southeast Richland County Sewer & Water Systems Expansion Project Update
CC:	Leonardo Brown, MBA, CPM, County Administrator

### **Project Construction Update**

The Southeast Richland County Sewer & Water Systems Expansion Project construction continues per design. The information sometimes will look repeated since it is along a stretch of road in a tranquil country setting and staff anticipates that there should not be any barriers to impede progress. The project work continues at a good pace for all the divisions. The report is updated with new photos captured for the project work.

All four divisions of Phase 1 are in construction. The weekly report will provide updates on the progress of each division. The design shows the lines along Lower Richland Boulevard, Airbase Road, Congaree Road, Bluff Road, Reynolds Road, Cabin Creek Road, Ault Road, Trotter Road, Congaree Church Road, and Clarkson Road. The project status will also include the construction of sewer lines, water lines, lift stations, water service connections, and sewer service connections along the routes.

We have listed the Contract completion dates below. These dates do not reflect any adjustments for rain, equipment, and material delivery delays (due to COVID -19). The delays will be monitored and the timeline will be adjusted with each report. The current Division 1, Division 2, and Division 2B substantial completion dates are January 10, 2021, with final completion February 9, 2021. Division 3 and Division 3B substantial completion dates are January 26, 2021, with final completion February 25, 2021. The Division 4 substantial completion date is March 7, 2021, with final completion April 6, 2021. We are currently compiling information with our engineer and plant equipment manufacturers to obtain quotes for repairs at the Eastover wastewater treatment plant to achieve full permitted capacity in conjunction with the new system demand.



## RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

7525 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063 T 803-401-0050 | F 803-401-0030 rcu\_services@richlandcountysc.gov | richlandcountysc.gov



## **DIVISION 1**

Last week the crews continued installing air release and plug valves along Air Base Road. They also installed water line on Air Base Road and Congaree Road. Next week crew will continue installing plug valves, air release and make tie-ins. The second crew will install force main along Airbase Road from the creek crossing past James Crossing Road toward Mc Entire back gate.

Installed as of December 3, 2020	Installed week of December 7 to December 11, 2020	Total installed to date	Percent complete
FM 45,300 Feet	0 Feet	45,300 Feet	76.5%
Water 26,000 Feet	800 Feet	26,800 Feet	83.5%

The contractor installing line on the Airbase Road (See photo 1). The crew will have a flagger on Airbase Road to help with traffic. A total of thirty-one (31) fire hydrants have been installed in Division 1.



Photo 1: Line install



# RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

7525 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063 T 803-401-0050 | F 803-401-0030 rcu\_services@richlandcountysc.gov | richlandcountysc.gov



# **DIVISION 2**

Last week crew continued installing air release and plug valves on Bluff Road and tied the water line on Congaree Church Road to the water line on Bluff Road. Next week the crews will continue installing air release and plug valves and making tie-ins. on Bluff Road and Congaree Church Road.

Installed as of December 3, 2020	Installed week of December 7 to December 11, 2020	Total installed to date	Percent complete
FM 36,500 Feet	0 Feet	36,500 Feet	73.0%
Water 20,900 Feet	200 Feet	21,100 Feet	75.1%

The line install on Bluff Road. (See photo 2). The crew will have a flagger on the Bluff Road for traffic. A total of twenty-seven (27) fire hydrants have been installed in Division 2.



Photo 2: Line install





7525 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063 T 803-401-0050 | F 803-401-0030 rcu\_services@richlandcountysc.gov | richlandcountysc.gov

# **DIVISION 3**

Last week the crews installed force main on Lower Richland Boulevard between Horrell Hill Road and Back Swamp Road. Next week the crew will be installing force main on Lower Richland boulevard from Back Swamp Road toward Old Creek Road.

Installed as of December 3, 2020	Installed week of December 7 to December 11, 2020	Total installed to date	Percent complete
FM 45,700 Feet	1,200 Feet	46,900 Feet	77.6%
Water 19,000 Feet	0 Feet	19,000 Feet	89.8%

The line install on Lower Richland Boulevard (See photo 3). The crew will have a flagger on the Lower Richland Boulevard for traffic. A total of twenty-four (24) fire hydrants have been installed.



Photo 3: Line install



# RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

7525 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063 T 803-401-0050 | F 803-401-0030 rcu\_services@richlandcountysc.gov | richlandcountysc.gov



# **DIVISION 4**

Last week the contractor made force main tie-ins on Trotter Road. Next week the crew will work on piping at the Trotter Road lift station and tie the lift station to the force main on Trotter Road. Next week all the lines will be installed but the DIV 4 still has sixty percent of work remaining to complete.

Installed as of December 3, 2020	Installed week of December 7 to December 11, 2020	Total installed to date	Percent complete
FM 13,130 Feet	340 Feet	13,470 Feet	100.0%
Gravity 1,500 Feet	0 Feet	1,500 Feet	100.0%

The force main install along Lower Richland Boulevard (See photo 4). The crew will have a flagger on Trotter Road. There are no fire hydrants designed in Division 4.



Photo 4: Force main install





# **RICHLAND COUNTY UTILITIES**

# SOUTHEAST SEWER & WATER EXPANSION PROJECT

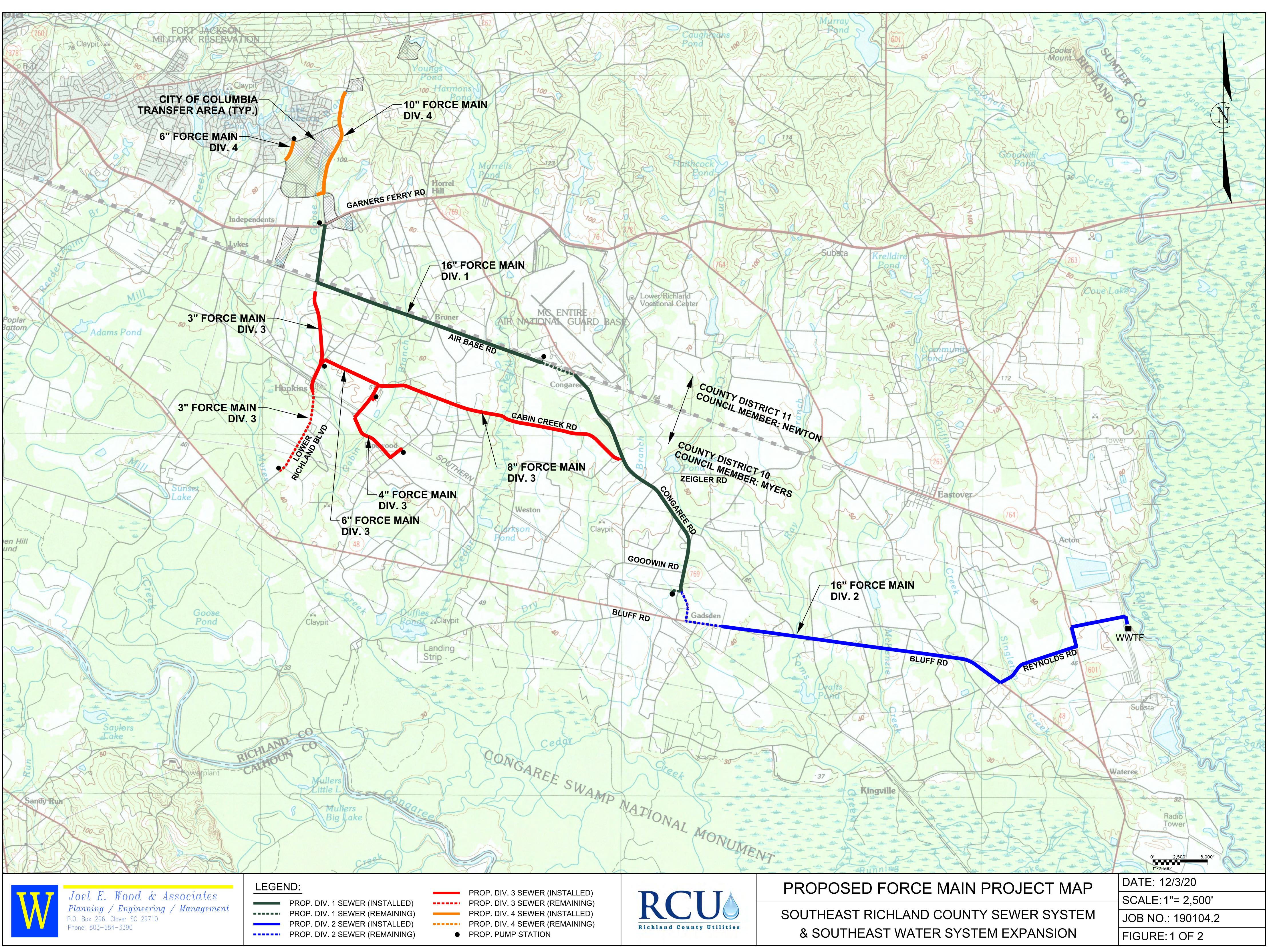
## WEEKLY FORECAST REPORT: December 7 - December 11, 2020

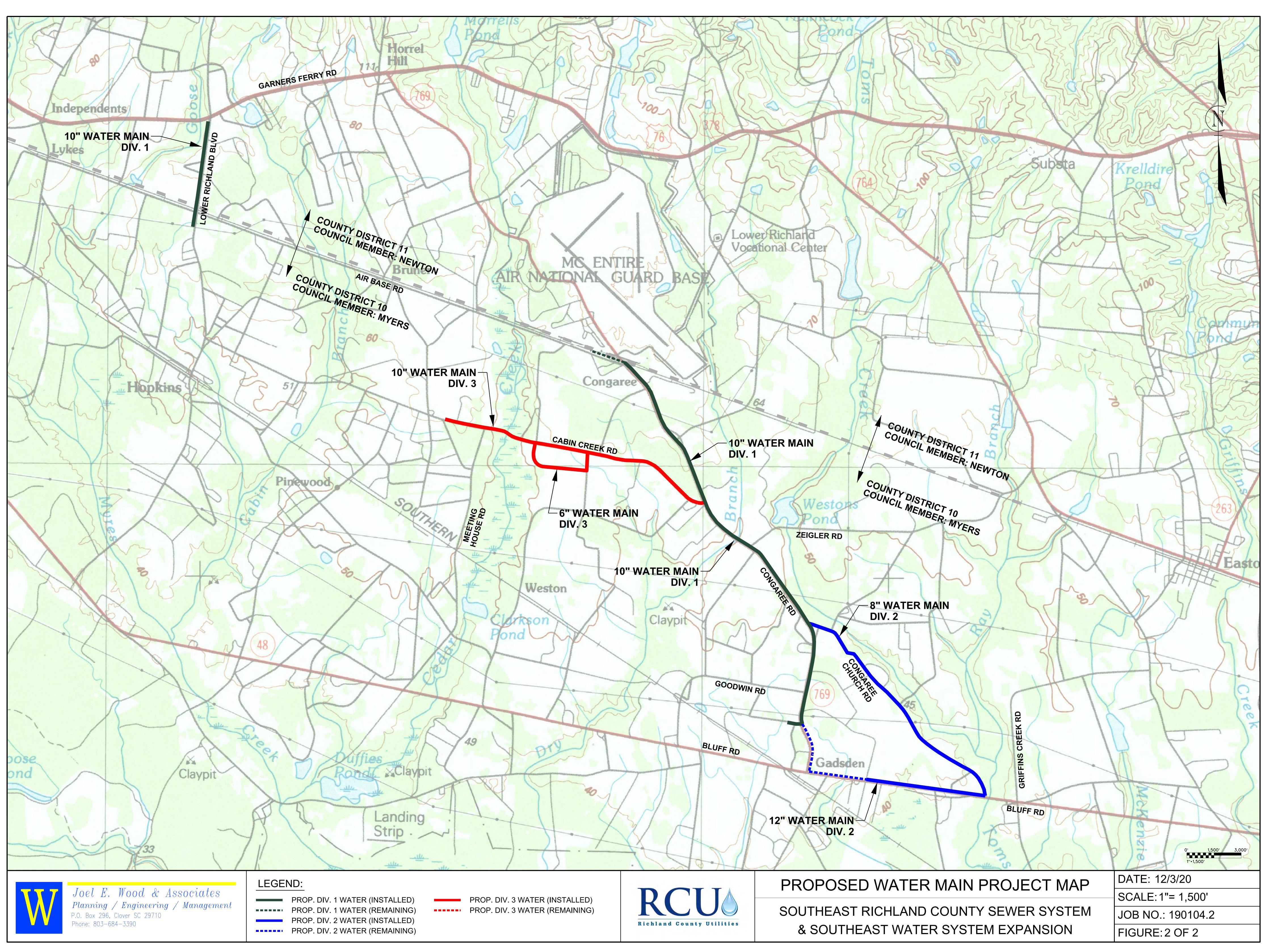
DIV 1	Details	Summary
Flagger Delay (3 to 5 minutes)	Airbase Road	Last week the crews continued installing air release and plug valves along Air Base Road.
Sewer Force-main total installed	45,300 ft., 76.5%complete	They also installed water line on Air Base Road and Congaree Road. Next week crew will continue installing plug valves, air release and make tie-ins. The second crew will install
Water main -total installed	26,800 ft., 83.5 % complete	force main along Airbase Road from the creek crossing past James Crossing Road toward
Road Closure	None	Mc Entire back gate.
Fire Hydrants	A total of thirty-one (31) fire hydrants have been installed	

DIV 2	Details	Summary
Flagger Delay (3 to 5 minutes)		Last week crew continued installing air release and plug valves on Bluff Road and tied the
Sewer Force-main total installed		water line on Congaree Church Road to the water line on Bluff Road. Next week the crews will continue installing air release and plug valves and making tie-ins. on Bluff Road
Water main-total installed	21,100 ft, 75.1% complete	and Congaree Church Road.
Road Closure	None	
Fire Hydrants	A total of twenty-seven (27) fire hydrants have been installed	

DIV 3	Details	Summary
Flagger Delay (3 to 5 minutes)	Lower Richland Boulevard	Last week the crews installed force main on Lower Richland Boulevard between Horrell
Sewer Force-main total installed	46,900 ft, 77.6 % complete	Hill Road and Back Swamp Road. Next week the crew will be installing force main on Lower Richland boulevard from Back Swamp Road toward Old Creek Road.
Water main -total installed	19,000 ft, 89.8% complete	· ·
Road Closure	None	
Fire Hydrants	A total of twenty-four (24) fire hydrants have been installed.	

DIV 4	Details	Summary
Flagger Delay (3 to 5 minutes)	Lower Richland Boulevard	Last week the contractor made force main tie-ins on Trotter Road. Next week the crew will
Sewer Force-main total installed		work on piping at the Trotter Road lift station and tie the lift station to the force main on Trotter Road. Next week all the lines will be installed but the DIV 4 still has sixty percent of
Gravity-main total installed		work remaining to complete.
Road Closure	None	
Fire Hydrants	None	





Page 78 of 88

From:	Bill Malinowski
To:	Dalhi Myers; JOHN THOMPSON
Cc:	Dalhi Myers; LEONARDO BROWN; Michelle Onley; Bill Davis; ASHIYA MYERS
Subject:	RE: Sewer Ad Hoc Committee BD: Eastover Plant Upgrades – Southeast Sewer Project Flow Increase
Date:	Friday, December 4, 2020 4:13:25 PM

I agree with Councilwoman Myers in that the item she refers to should be placed on the agenda for discussion. I would request that staff have some information to provide at that time if possible. If not, please advise when such information can be made available so it can be discussed at the next meeting.

#### Bill Malinowski

From: Dalhi Myers <dalhi31@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2020 11:53 AM
To: JOHN THOMPSON <THOMPSON.JOHN@richlandcountysc.gov>
Cc: Bill Malinowski <Malinowski.Bill@richlandcountysc.gov>; Dalhi Myers
<dmyers@richlandcountysc.gov>; LEONARDO BROWN
<BROWN.LEONARDO@richlandcountysc.gov>; Michelle Onley
<Onley.Michelle@richlandcountysc.gov>; Bill Davis <davis.bill@richlandcountysc.gov>; ASHIYA
MYERS <MYERS.ASHIYA@richlandcountysc.gov>
Subject: Re: Sewer Ad Hoc Committee BD: Eastover Plant Upgrades – Southeast Sewer Project Flow Increase

Mr. Chair:

Dr. Thompson and the staff are aware that Albeleen Park, a subdivision along the phase 1 route, has consistently asked to be included in the project. There are nearly 50 houses there, many with compromised sewers. Joel Wood and I have met with the residents many times. Mr. Wood promised them that their homes would be included. They recently have been told that they are not in the currently plan.

Given the number of houses (almost 50), and the positive fiscal impact adding them would make to the overall bottom line (and considering that the project currently is under budget), can we please ask the staff to include a discussion of this issue and adding these very interested (and in need) potential customers, whose home literally are off of Lower Richland Blvd., to the project?

I believe excluding willing payers leaves money on the table solely for the external contractor's convenience and violates a commitment to connect all customers along the route.

Can this important issue be added to the agenda for next week? These customers will generate happily join the system and contribute to its sustainability once up and running. As well, they need the service.

Thank you for any consideration.

Dalhi

Sent from my wireless handheld device. Please excuse any grammatical errors. DM

On Dec 3, 2020, at 9:49 AM, JOHN THOMPSON <<u>THOMPSON.JOHN@richlandcountysc.gov</u>> wrote:

Good morning, the Honorable Councilman Malinowski and the Honorable Councilwoman Myers.

Please find the attached briefing document, which is an updated one to the one that I shared with you on yesterday. The only change is to the quote page, which we made a larger font.

We look forward to meeting with you on next Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 3:00 PM to 3:30 PM during the Sewer Ad Hoc Committee meeting to address this single item. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

#### John M. Thompson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM

Assistant County Administrator Richland County Government Office of the County Administrator 803-576-1364 Thompson.John@RichlandCountySC.gov

<Eastover Plant Upgrades - Southeast Sewer Project Flow Increase.pdf>

# RICHLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069 Columbia, SC 29204 803-576-2050



## **Agenda Briefing**

То:	Chair of the	Committee and the Honorable Me	ember	s of the (	Committee
Prepared by:	Jani Hussain	i, Deputy Director			
Department:	Utilities				
Date Prepared:	June 16, 202	20 Meeting Dat	e:		
Legal Review				Date:	
<b>Budget Review</b>				Date:	
<b>Finance Review</b>				Date:	
Approved for con	sideration:	Assistant County Administrator	John	M. Thor	npson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM
Committee	Administration & Finance				
Subject:	Approval fo	r Funds to Connect Allbene Park, E	Bluff Ro	oad Com	munity and St Johns
	Church to S	E Sewer and Water Expansion Proj	ect (SE	SWEP).	

#### **Recommended Action:**

There are two recommended actions for expanding the current Southeast Sewer and Water Expansion Project.

- Approve funds to design and construct a sewer collection system for Allbene Park to be connected to the ongoing Southeast Sewer and Water Expansion Project (SESWEP) and to design and construct a sewer mains to the Smith Myers Road Community on Bluff Road and to St Johns Church on JW Neal Road.
- 2. Do not approve funds to design and construct a gravity sewer collection system for Allbene Park to be connected to the ongoing Southeast Sewer and Water Expansion Project (SESWEP) and to design and construct a sewer mains to the Smith Myers Road Community on Bluff Road and to St Johns Church on JW Neal Road. These two communities will be part of Phase 2 of the SESWEP, which begins in 2022, pending County Council approval and additional revenues from debt financing and/or a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### **Motion Requested:**

Move to accept either Recommendation 1 or 2.

Request for Council Reconsideration: 

Yes

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

The fiscal impact for approving the expansion to the SESWEP is \$1,482,000.00 for the cost of design, construction of a gravity system for the Allbene Park. Additionally, there is an annual cost of \$50,000 to operate and maintain the pump station that to be constructed for Allbene Park. The expected revenue based on the current sewer rate of \$55.68 for 21 homes signed for service is \$1,169.28 per month (\$14,031.36 annual).

The fiscal impact for approving the expansion to the SESWEP is \$582,076.83 for the cost of design, construction of Low Pressure force main system for Smith Myers Road Community on Bluff Road. The expected revenue based on the current sewer rate of \$55.68 for 10 homes signed for service is \$556.80 per month (\$6,681.60 annual).

The fiscal impact for approving the expansion to the SESWEP is \$33,810.00 for the cost of design, construction of Low Pressure force main system for the St Johns Church on JW Neal Road. The expected revenue based on the current sewer rate of \$55.68 for the church with 425 seating capacity is \$167.04 per month (\$2,004.48 annual).

#### Motion of Origin:

Council Member	
Meeting	
Date	

#### **Discussion:**

#### Allbene Park

The Allbene Park is a 42-home residential development located in the Hopkins area of Richland County (see figure 1 for location). Currently, all 42 homes are on a septic tank. At the build-out of the Southeast sewer project, Richland County will have a sewer main installed along Lower Richland Boulevard that is accessible to this subdivision. To connect Allbene Park to the sewer main, a sewer collection system will connect each home and transport sewer to the public main that will be designed and constructed.

The proposed sewer system will be a gravity collection system with a community pump station. The gravity main will designed to convey generated sewage from homes to the station that will pump sewer to the public collection system. The estimated cost for the design and construction of this system is \$1,482,000.00. The gravity mains and community pump station will be turned over to the County for operation and maintenance.

#### The Bluff Road's Community

The Bluff Road's community is a cluster of homes along Smith Myers Road (See figure 2). Ten (10) residents from this community have expressed the desire to connect to the public sewer system. The design of the ongoing SE Sewer and Water Expansion Project includes a sewer force main to be installed along Congaree Road to Bluff Road. However, this community is approximately 14,000 feet from location of the closest force main to be installed on Bluff Road. A sewer collection system has to be designed to connect these homes to the public main. The cost for the design and construction is estimated at \$582,076.83.

#### <u>The St Johns Church</u>

St John Church is located on 230 J W Neal Circle off Clarkson Road (See figure 3). The church owner have expressed the desire to connect the church to the public sewer system. The design of the ongoing SE Sewer and Water Expansion Project includes a sewer force main to be installed along Clarkson Road. However, the location of the church is approximately 1600 LF from the proposed sewer line on Clarkson Road which is above the 200 LF threshold for service connection. Expanding the ongoing SESWEP project to provide sewer service to the church will cost \$33,810.00.



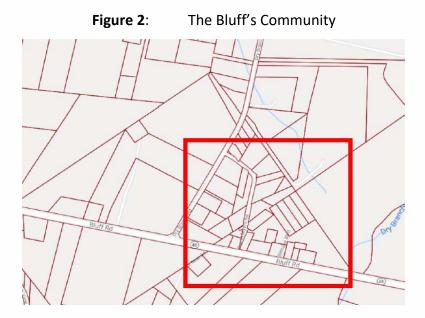




Figure 3: St Johns Church

<u>NC</u>
N; Jessica Mancine; LEONARDO BROWN
esses - 230 Reverend Neal Circle
, 2020 1:43:52 PM

Hold on for further instruction. Thanks. Dalhi

### Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 12, 2020, at 11:47 AM, JOHN THOMPSON <<u>THOMPSON.JOHN@richlandcountysc.gov</u>> wrote:

Hello Jani,

Thank you for the information. Please contact the church to confirm their desire to connect to the system. As the 200-feet threshold has already been established and because this addition would alter the scope and cost of the project, please include in a BD for Council's approval along with the other two neighborhoods.

Best,

#### John M. Thompson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM

Assistant County Administrator Richland County Government Office of the County Administrator 803-576-2054 Thompson.John@RichlandCountySC.gov

From: TARIQ HUSSAIN <<u>HUSSAIN.TARIQ@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:36 AM
To: JOHN THOMPSON <<u>THOMPSON.JOHN@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Cc: Dalhi Myers <<u>dmyers@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>; Jessica Mancine
<<u>Mancine.Jessica@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Subject: RE: List of addresses - 230 Reverend Neal Circle

Dr. Thompson,

We checked and did not find this address on the list where residents requested the desire to connect.

The address is beyond the 200 feet threshold to connect. The address is approximately 1000 feet away from the mainline for the phase 1 project. If there is a desire to connect by this address then please let me know to design and submit a change order in a BD to the County Council for approval.

Thanks

#### Jani Tariq Hussain

Deputy Director P 803-401-0045

HUSSAIN.TARIQ@richlandcountysc.gov

<image001.jpg>

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From: JOHN THOMPSON <<u>THOMPSON.JOHN@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:45 PM
To: TARIQ HUSSAIN <<u>HUSSAIN.TARIQ@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Cc: Dalhi Myers <<u>dmyers@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>; JOHN THOMPSON
<<u>THOMPSON.JOHN@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Subject: Re: List of addresses

Thank you, sir. I did not see 230 Reverend Neal Circle on the list. Please confirm that it is not on the list. If not on the list, please advise if the landowner ever made contact with us. I understand that it is a church.

Best,

## John M. Thompson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM

Assistant County Administrator Richland County Government Office of the County Administrator Thompson.John@RichlandCountySC.gov P 803-576-2054 F 803-576-2137 2020 Hampton St. P.O. Box 192 Columbia, SC 29201 richlandcountysc.gov

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On Jun 11, 2020, at 8:23 PM, TARIQ HUSSAIN <<u>HUSSAIN.TARIQ@richlandcountysc.gov</u>> wrote:

#### Dr. Thompson,

Please see the attached list.

Thanks

Jani Tariq Hussain

Deputy Director P 803-401-0045 HUSSAIN.TARIQ@richlandcountysc.gov <image003.jpg> CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail mess

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From: JOHN THOMPSON <<u>THOMPSON.JOHN@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:19 PM
To: TARIQ HUSSAIN <<u>HUSSAIN.TARIQ@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Cc: Dalhi Myers <<u>dmyers@richlandcountysc.gov</u>>
Subject: List of addresses

Director Hussain,

Please e-mail the list of addresses that will receive sewer and/or water connection as part of the SE Sewer and Water Expansion Project.

Thank you,

## John M. Thompson, Ph.D., MBA, CPM

Assistant County Administrator Richland County Government Office of the County Administrator Thompson.John@RichlandCountySC.gov P 803-576-2054 F 803-576-2137 2020 Hampton St. P.O. Box 192 Columbia, SC 29201 richlandcountysc.gov

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