

City of DeBary
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Wednesday
May 18, 2009
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
16 Colomba Road
DeBary, Florida 32713

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Mayor Garcia called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Bob Garcia, Vice Mayor Norman Erickson, Council Member Van Conoley, Council Member Jack Lenzen, and Council Member Leonard Marks

Others Present: Acting City Manager Anthony Gonzalez and City Clerk Stacy Tebo

III. Business – Evaluation of Stormwater Capital Improvement Program

Roxanne Hopkins, 200 May Place, said she previously sent an email to the Council regarding the possibility of the City purchasing her property for the stormwater program and would like to know the Council's position.

Darcie DiTaranto, 300 May Place, stated she would like to see Mr. Hamstra's presentation before she addresses the Council.

Jim Gangitano, 309 LaCreek Court, said that he was speaking on behalf of the DeBary Golf & Country Club Homeowners Association, and thanked the Council for their consideration.

Stormwater Engineer David Hamstra briefly outlined the 2004 neighborhood stormwater capital improvement program and gave the status of each of the projects.

Mr. Hamstra informed the Council that there was a press release notification that the City was approved for \$2.2 million for the FEMA buyout, but the City is still waiting on the official letter of award.

Mr. Hamstra stated that the bid opening for the West Side Emergency Flood Management System (WSEFMS) would occur the following day, and he anticipates the construction prices being lower than the engineer's estimate. He noted that the City has officially secured the grant from FEMA; that the City will receive a one million dollar contribution from FDOT; and that the County might contribute three million dollars for their use of the borrow pit. He explained various possibilities of what the City's share might be based on variations in bids and the County's participation.

Council Member Conoley asked Mr. Hamstra to summarize the meeting he had the previous week with Volusia County regarding their use of the borrow pit. Mr. Hamstra stated that the County is reluctant to give the City three million dollars in advance of receiving their permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He added that he might have an update at the next Council meeting concerning an agreement with Volusia County for their use of the borrow pit.

Mr. Hamstra stated that there were approximately thirty new projects identified in 2008; that fourteen were considered major flood protection projects; that seven were considered localized flooding or nuisance projects; that seven are small scale projects that do not require permits; that two projects are under construction; that the total cost for all the 2008 projects is roughly thirteen million dollars; and that he considers the Lakeside project the most important due to the large number of homes affected and the favorable response from FEMA for funding.

Mr. Hamstra explained the project near 200 and 300 May Place and said it would resolve localized flooding on Deleon Road and move the water from Woodbound to Lake Charles.

Mr. Hamstra said he had researched the State-funded revolving low interest loan but learned that DeBary's projects do not qualify because they are flood protection rather than water quality projects.

Darcie DiTaranto, 300 May Place, voiced concern that more water is coming to her house, and no one has officially approached her for the purchase of her property. Mr. Hamstra explained the system of lakes and the outfall in her area. Ms. DiTaranto stated that she did not flood until four days after Tropical Storm Fay, and the City has utilized an illegal ditch that was dug across her property for fourteen years.

C.J. DiTaranto, 300 May Place, said that he sold the property to Volusia County to build Bill Keller Park; that the County filled in the north end of the property to build the baseball fields, which they were not supposed to do; that the City needs to lay out the money to get the problem fixed; that Mr. Hamstra needs help, and they should not rely solely on him; and that the City should obtain a loan to build the needed infrastructure.

Tina Rose, 122 Pine Valley Court, voiced concern that project 37 is a FDOT project to raise US Highway 17-92, and if it were done before the West Side System is completed, the project would negatively impact her street and the DeBary Golf and Country Club. Mayor Garcia responded that the State has not secured funding to do the project, and the City would most certainly complete the West Side System first. Mr. Hamstra affirmed his statement and said that FDOT is two to three years behind the City.

Devorah Posner, 383 Glen Abbey Lane, said she was worried that her neighbors recently installed landscaping would divert flooding from their home to hers. Mr. Hamstra explained that the Soft Shadow Lane project is currently out for bid, and he does not feel it would be an issue or impact to the neighbors unless there was an extreme event.

Dan Disrud, 301 Alexandra Woods Drive, thanked the Council for its efforts regarding the FEMA buyouts and asked the City to keep an eye on the pumps and ensure they are monitored for the safety of the residents.

Mr. Hamstra said he was looking for direction from the Council regarding the new 2008 projects.

Council Member Lenzen stated that the City must have the West Side System up and running, and in his opinion it is the most important project; that the FEMA buyouts are important for the City to obtain the flooded properties and is second in priority; that the City should then determine how much money is left and rank projects by which give the most protection for the least amount of money; and that they only have six million to work with.

Vice Mayor Erickson agreed with Council Member Lenzen regarding the West Side System and the FEMA buyouts.

Mr. Hamstra also agreed and said his ranking for the third project would be Lakeside because it benefits so many residents.

Vice Mayor Erickson asked about Roxanne Hopkins. Mr. Hamstra answered that the only way to permanently solve the problem would be to buy out the residents that repeatedly flood. He explained that the West Side System indirectly benefits Lake Charles.

Council Member Marks thanked Mr. Hamstra for the presentation and said he agreed with the prioritization stated by the Council. He asked if the West Side System could be built quicker by using multiple contractors. Mr. Hamstra suggested that the City might provide the contractor with a monetary incentive to finisher sooner than fifteen months.

Mr. Hamstra discussed grant funding options with Council Member Marks.

Council Member Marks recommended that the storm drains should be cleaned out before storm season begins.

Council Member Conoley said they should change the fifteen months to reduce the timeframe for the West Side construction to be completed.

Council Member Lenzen said he would like staff to ask the apparent low bidder for the West Side System if it physically could be done quicker and how much it would cost.

Dolores, Lukomski, 204 Lourdan Court, asked the Council to think about the projected revenues and perform a "what if" analysis to determine what it does to the stormwater project list. She encouraged Council to pursue additional grant funding opportunities.

Jim Gangitano, 309 LaCreek Court, stated that fifteen months is two storm seasons, and a three-month reduction would make a huge difference; that the bids are already out and the City cannot change the specifications; and that the City Manager could sit down with the low bidder and try to reduce the time frame.

Mr. Hamstra stated that the bids would be due the following day for all six phases of the West Side System; that it was bid in that manner because of current market and construction conditions; that there had been previous discussions of building it in phases due to the lack of funding; and that recent developments in grant funding led the City to believe that the whole project could be built without phasing.

Mayor Garcia discussed the County's participation and the use of the borrow pit with Mr. Hamstra. Mr. Hamstra stated that a fifteen-month timeframe is realistic assuming there are not any extreme weather conditions.

IV. Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**APPROVED September 30, 2009
CITY OF DeBARY
CITY COUNCIL**

Bob Garcia, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacy Tebo, City Clerk