

CITY OF ARCHER JOINT CITY COMMISSION & SEWER COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 2011 Time: 7:00 PM

MINUTES, WHICH ARE PUBLIC RECORD, ARE NOTES TAKEN TO PROVIDE A SUMMARY MEMORANDUM OF MEETINGS OR HEARINGS AND CONTAIN ALL OFFICIAL ACTIONS TAKEN. MINUTES ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE A WORD FOR WORD OR VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MEETING.

QUORUM CHECK:

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| Mayor | Frank Ogborn |
| Vice Mayor: | Marjorie Zander |
| Commissioners: | Blanch Parker Fletcher Hope Gabe Green, Chairman, Sewer Committee |
| Sewer Committee | Donna Alverson Debra Ogborn Tillie Davis |
| Staff: | |
| City Manager | John Glanzer |
| Minutes Recorder | Mary T. Flickinger |

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ogborn called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. CDBG Grant Strategy

Mark Brewer, President, and Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, Angie Brewer & Associates, LC.

Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, recapped that the City of Archer intends on constructing a wastewater system with an approximate cost of \$9M. The project has been placed on the fundable portion of the State Revolving Fund Disadvantage Small Communities Grant (SRF/DSCG) program for approximately \$2.7M, but the city needs additional grant funding to ensure that the customer rates are affordable. One of the potential funding sources is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), but the CDBG has limitations on what geographical areas it can be used for. Potential areas were outlined in aerial graphs and Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager stated that each area will require some intensive work regarding eligibility.

Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, stated that there have been some presumptions of what the ground water might reveal with the septic systems leaching into the system, but the city must also consider that science might show that the septic tanks are not contaminating the water. The eligibility of how the CDBG application scores will depend on surveys and this is why the city needs to find out about the condition of the ground water. Suwannee River Water Management made an offer to help with some well testing on city property, and this will determine the need to go further. Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, stated that this project needs a champion who understands the relationship of the funding to every aspect of the project.

Commissioner Green stated that he would assume that Angie Brewer & Associates is a champion.

Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, stated that Angie Brewer & Associates has the capability to be a champion, but it need not be us, this is not a sales pitch.

Commissioner Parker asked if it was time to have another workshop with the community to keep everyone involved and informed.

Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, stated that Angie Brewer & Associates will support the city with any community involvement.

City Manager Glanzer stated that the city needs to get the Florida Department of Environment Protection and Rural Development (FDEP; RD), and other involved principals together, to find out what they are looking for regarding testing criteria. The least possible cost for testing would be to go back to the county. If the city decides to submit an application for RD funding, the reality is that the application will have a negative effect on any additional monies that we may be able to obtain. This might make it counterproductive to apply for funding too early.

Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, stated USDA funding will look at everything from a financial standpoint and the amount of money that they have defined as the grant portion will be reduced by any other grant funding that the city might obtain. The various phases of the project need to be looked at so that the city has a technically sound portion of the system that produces revenue to support matching funds.

Mayor Ogborn stated that he does not know how the city could break the portions down into phases and noted the city must be under construction by 2014.

Kevin Sudbury, Senior Project Manager, stated sections of the collection system can be identified and completed while other phases would be still under construction.

Mayor Ogborn clarified that what is being suggested is to break the system down into various phases so that the city can apply for the CDBG, \$650,000.00, at each phase.

Commissioner Hope asked why the wells have to be tested on only city property.

City Manager Glanzer stated that private wells can be tested if the property owner allows the city access. Suwannee River Water Management will test any wells that the city has access to, but would probably require the monitoring well to be on city property.

Donna Alverson, Sewer Committee, stated that if the county has already tested area wells, we should be able to obtain this information. City Manager Glanzer stated that the county has offered to assist Archer, but we must first define the criteria to look for.

City Manager Glanzer stated that he felt that there might be some push from RD to look at Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) again.

Commissioner Hope asked if we had totally abandoned the idea of a co-op.

City Manager Glanzer stated that the City of Gainesville wanted the City of Archer to reduce the size of the forcemain, put in the forcemain, and then give back one mile of the forcemain to the City of Gainesville free of charge.

Mayor Ogborn stated that the City of Waldo received their hookup from GRU and the amount of the wastewater charge was approximately one half of what they wanted to charge the City of Archer.

City Manager Glanzer stated that maybe approaching GRU again might be worthwhile, but we would need to look at what we are saving and the downside of this decision. City Manager Glanzer stated that our goal is to have the study started by February 2012 so that the results can be compiled by May and sent to FDEP for the next grant cycle.

Tillie Davis, Sewer Committee, asked if we are here tonight to define if Angie Brewer is the company that the city plans to use. Tillie Davis proposed that the city send a letter asking property owners if they would like to have their wells tested free of charge.

City Manager Glanzer stated that the City will be putting something like twenty thousand dollars into the study and the city needs to have something in writing from FDEP and RD to define what they are looking for and how it will benefit Archer. City Manager Glanzer proposed having a video conference with the parties involved rather than working with everyone's schedule to come to a meeting.

City Manager Glanzer stated that there are many companies that work with CDBG funding, but they might not have the experience to provide other types of assistance. The Commission and Sewer Committee will need to discuss if they want to continue with Angie Brewer or find another company. This topic will be on the agenda for discussion at the December Commission meeting. The Sewer Committee will meet to discuss their recommendations to the Commission prior to the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Parker asked about the Suwannee River monitoring well.

David Keough, Baskerville-Donovan, stated that Suwannee River Water Management has a web of monitoring wells, but they do not have anything to monitor past Newberry, and this is why they have offered to provide sampling. David Keough stated that the study might show that the septic tanks are not impacting people on the city's water system, but they are impacting private wells to the North of the city.

City Manager Glanzer stated that he will contact the members of the Sewer Committee to arrange another meeting before December. Possible dates for the meeting are November 29th or 30th.

III. MOTION TO ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Ogborn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION made by Commissioner Parker to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND made by Commissioner Green.


John Glanzer, City Manager


Frank Ogborn, Mayor