

MINUTES



PUBLIC HEARING (Wastewater System Improvements)

February 14, 2023, 5:00 PM

WORKSESSION (Wastewater System Improvements)

February 14, 2023, 5:15 PM

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 14, 2023, 5:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING:

Call to Order: The February 14th, 2023, Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Keith Turman at 5:00 PM

Attendance: Mayor Keith Turman, Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Phillips, Lee Strickland, David Pressley, Kenneth Roach, Wayne Braswell, Matt Fields, City Manager Sharleen Ayers, City Attorney Doug Ashworth, and City Clerk Tonya Allen.

- A. **Wastewater System Improvements – Comply with the requirements of Georgia’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) State Environmental Review Process (SERP)**

Invitation of Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Response by Council: No response made.

Close Public Hearing: Jason Phillips made a motion to close public hearing; Lee Strickland seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Public hearing closed at 5:15 PM.

WORKSESSION:

Call to order: The February 14, 2023, Worksession was called to order by Mayor Keith Turman at 5:15 PM.

Attendance: Mayor Keith Turman, Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Phillips, Lee Strickland, David Pressley, Kenneth Roach, Wayne Braswell, Matt Fields, City Manager Sharleen Ayers, City Attorney Doug Ashworth, and City Clerk Tonya Allen.

Discussion:

- A. **Wastewater System Improvements – Comply with the requirements of Georgia’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) State Environmental Review Process (SERP):** Wiley Helm with Peoples & Quigley gave an update on the Wastewater System Improvements. A revision was made during the 30 day-review process. The next step, the State Compliance Process, is called the design documentation report and that’s for the copper improvements to the sewer treatment plant. While working on the design documentation report they realized one critical step needed to be added to the Phase I improvements, so the revision needed to be added now so that it could be included in the funding application. Phase I scope was revised to include the extra step in the process and then increased the total budget for the preliminary opinion of probable cost from 2.75 to 3 million dollars. The \$250,000 difference is there for the dewatering step. The dewatering step is going to take the bio-solids that are generated during wastewater treatment, remove the water from them so they can be hauled off site to the landfill for disposal or any further process. Engineers believe this is a critical step and it’s in Royston best interest. This is a conventional treatment process that you would see in any engineering textbook that you open. The purpose is to take those biosolids that are building up in the equalization basin. They recommend the city move forward with increasing the Phase I improvements from 2.75 to 3 million and we submit it to GEFA this month.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: The February 14, 2023, Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Turman at 5:30 PM.

Approval of All Outstanding Minutes: Jason Phillips made a motion to approve the January 10th, Regular Meeting Minutes, and January 31st, 2023, Work Session Minutes. Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Add Item D: (MOST) House Bill 146 to new business.

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Jason Phillips to approve the agenda with changes. Motion was seconded by Kenneth Roach. Motion passed 6-0.

Main Street Update – Michael Crump: February meeting for the DDA will be meeting this Tuesday at 10AM at the Depot. Hoping to meet with the developer last Tuesday so the date was changed. James Doyle will do a quick power point of some of the issues of the building that he is renovating next to the police department. Next Wednesday there will be a meeting in Carnesville at the Community Center at noon. There is a group wanting to start a county fair again, so they are in the planning phase. At the DDA meeting Tuesday they will set a date with merchants, to also discuss Christmas parade options,

Old Business:

- A. **2023 Appointments: Consent Agenda DDA:** Michael Crump gave recommendations for the 2023 DDA Appointments as follows: Susan Russell term expires 12/26. Margie Moore term expires 12/26. Shirley Rosenberg term expires on 12/25. Alice Pulliam term expires 12/23. David Pressley term expires 12/25. Two new appointments, Hilary Mays term expires 12/23 and Jennifer Perez term expires 12/26. Motion was made by Wayne Braswell to approve the 2023 Appointments: Consent Agenda DDA. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. **Ordinance to amend Chapter 2 – Administration; Article II – City Council:** City Attorney Doug Ashworth read the second reading of the ordinance. Motion was made by Jason Phillips to approve the ordinance to amend Chapter 2 – Administration; Article II. Motion was seconded by Wayne Braswell. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business:

- A. **Submit Wastewater System Improvements plan to GEFA for potential financing:** Motion was made by Jason Phillips to approve forwarding information to GEFA for potential financing. Motion was seconded by David Pressley. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. **Arbor Day Proclamation:** Mayor Turman read the Arbor Day Proclamation. Motion was made by Jason Phillips to approve the Arbor Day Proclamation. Motion was seconded by Wayne Braswell. Motion passed 6-0. City Manager Sharleen Ayers stated that along with that the library on Friday will have a set up of some books and information for the children regarding Arbor Day. Also, we will have an Arbor Day event planned for April when the weather is a little better and hoping to choose a day when the children are out of school, so that the children's group from the library can join us. Looking at locations to plant trees at one of the Housing Authority.
- C. **Strategic Plan components:** City Manager Sharleen Ayers gave out a listing of the strategic plan components. She stated that the council voted before to go ahead with the pre-approval, we were approved and now we have to put in our full application. This is the list of components that we would like included in our strategic plan. If these are acceptable for the council as the main components for our strategic plan, we can make a motion to accept these, or if you would like to make some changes now would be a good time to add or subtract anything. Motion was made by Lee Strickland to move forward with the Strategic Plan components. Motion was seconded by Matt Fields. Motion passed 6-0.
- D. **(MOST) House Bill 146 to new business:** Mayor Turman stated that if this House Bill is passed and signed into law, it will be to allow the City of Royston to participate in MOST, which will allow us to have a 1% sales tax and it will help fund the projects going forward for water and sewer. If we are able to do this with the 1% sales tax it will allow us to possibly roll back the water and wastewater debt service rates that we've already voted on. We would put it before the citizens and let this Municipal Option Sales Tax go forward and help fund the debt services on that. Representative Powell is behind this, he spoke with the Mayor personally.

Executive Session: Matt Fields made a motion to enter into executive session for discussion of personnel, potential litigation and real estate; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Executive session entered at 6:12 PM. Motion was made by Kenneth Roach to re-enter regular session; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Regular session was re-entered at 6:44 PM.

Adjourn: Kenneth Roach made a motion to adjourn; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Tonya Allen, City Clerk

Mayor Keith Turman

(SEAL)