

**CHAPIN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 15, 2016
5:00 P.M.**

**Town Council Chambers
157 NW Columbia Ave, Chapin**

Members Present: Mayor Skip Wilson, Mayor Pro Tempore Mike Clonts, Member Robbie Frick, and Member Kay Hollis.

Members Absent: Member Gregg White.

Staff Present: Communications Director Karen Owens, Utilities Director Andy Metts, Sanitary Engineer Dan Lambert, and Police Chief Seth Zeigler.

Guests: Chris Burke, Dana McGill, Kevin Strickland, James Griffin, and Kim Murphy.

Call to Order: Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Mayor determined there was a quorum and acknowledged that the appropriate notifications in compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act had been met.

Presentation on Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Public Hearing - Hussey Gay Bell Engineers: Director Metts introduced Kevin Strickland of Hussey Gay Bell Engineers to present the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion "Exhibit A."

Mr. Strickland explained the need for a wastewater treatment plant upgrade/expansion. The two main drivers of the expansion are capacity (4,000 taps available/5,300 taps allocated) and effluent quality (Department of Health & Environment Control (DHEC) proposed 35% reduction in waste load allocation).

The project goals are to use as much of the existing wastewater treatment plant, meet or exceed DHEC's proposed 35% waste load reduction, and adequately treat capacity of wastewater flow.

Hussey Gay Bell Engineers evaluated different alternatives which included: no action (which could result in developments using septic tanks or private utilities, potential lawsuits and fines if capacity is exceeded, or a moratorium is implemented); regionalization (which would require an intergovernmental agreement and would have significant costs involved); modification of the existing lagoon treatment facility (which was not as economical or efficient as other alternatives); and new wastewater treatment plant alternatives (which included conventional activated sludge, orbital (carrousel) activated sludge, and sequencing batch reactor).

The new wastewater treatment plant alternatives were explained and the orbital plant was the preferred alternative because of the lowest capital cost and the lowest operation and maintenance costs. At the current interest rate, a financed project of \$12,000,000 would increase a customer's bill by \$4 to \$6 a month.

Mayor Pro Tem Clonts inquired if all four plants have the same preliminary treatment systems; yes. Do they all use sodium hypochlorite disinfection; yes. Do they all have the same cost for miscellaneous items like the lab, maintenance for solids, chemical addition, and phosphorus removal; yes, and no. Some of the costs for chemical addition would be the same but sludge handling would be different from plant to plant. Sludge handling for the lagoon system is very different from the other three because the newer plants are more efficient.

Discussion of current operating costs and cleaning the sludge out of the lagoon commenced. Cleaning out the lagoon would be a component of all four operating systems and was not included in the project costs. The system has been in use for about 30 years and it is speculated to have a large amount of sludge buildup. Director Metts indicated that cleanout costs could range anywhere from \$50,000 to \$500,000 and cleanout would not be addressed until a new plant was on-line.

Mayor Pro Tem Clonts asked if capital costs were looked at for the orbital plant, such as dumpsters and trucks for waste disposal; yes. Were operating and maintenance costs, such as drivers and landfill charges, looked at; yes. The risk of operating a 30-year-old effluent line was discussed. The pvc line should be holding up well but would be checked during the process.

Mayor Wilson asked for recommendation of the best and most efficient of the four plants. Mr. Strickland indicated that the conventional and the orbital were the most efficient and lagoons were not looked at anymore due to improved technology. The Mayor inquired about the timeline for financing the project and what would happen if deadlines were not met. The design process takes about seven months and DHEC would need to start reviewing the preliminary engineering report. If the July 2017 deadline for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) funding was missed, it would put the project off for another year.

Mayor Wilson thanked Mr. Strickland, opened the public portion of the hearing, and explained the guidelines.

James Griffin, who lives near the treatment plant, was concerned about noise and odor. Director Metts indicated that with the orbital system noise is minimal and odor would be addressed during the design process.

Kim Murphy had reviewed the engineer's report and contract. She stated that if appropriate controls were not in place rapid growth would open a flood gate for bad development. Also, total project costs were included on the recommended plant but not on the other alternatives. Ms. Murphy suggested a population study be done before approving a new wastewater treatment plant.

There was no further discussion. Council Member Hollis moved to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Frick seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

COUNCIL APPROVED: October 18, 2016