



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: Regular Meeting **MEETING DATE:** March 3, 2026
FROM: City Attorney Arnold & Interim City Manager Mike Null
SUBJECT: City Council consideration of proposed settlement between the City and Huntley Corporations (“Huntley”) in pending litigation.

BACKGROUND

As we know, there has been an ongoing challenge by Huntley relative to current and prior years stormwater usage charges. As a result, Huntley filed a complaint in Circuit Court against the City seeking reimbursement of all past charges which could total several hundred thousand dollars if they prevailed fully on all their claims. They also sought attorney fees and costs. The City hired outside trial counsel, Greg, Stewart, to defend the City. Based upon negotiations between the lawyers, a full settlement was reached contingent upon City Council approval. A copy of the proposed Settlement Agreement is attached for your review. As you can see, Huntley has dropped his claims for years prior to fiscal year 23/24, as well as claims for fees and costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

The reimbursement to Huntley is set forth in paragraph 4 of the agreement with same to be paid over two (2) fiscal years. Paragraph 5 of the Agreement also requires Huntley to dismiss his suit against the City with prejudice within five (5) days of approval of the Agreement by the City Council. Staff and outside counsel recommend this proposed settlement as being in the City's best financial interest given the claims and associated risks of further litigation with the fees and costs associated therewith.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the Settlement Agreement.