



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

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**TO:** City Council Regular Session **MEETING DATE:** March 4, 2025

**FROM:** Scott Schultz, Asst. Water Utilities Director

**SUBJECT:** City Council ratification of funding in the amount of 100,000.00 to General Underground for an emergency replacement of a 12" water main under County Road 209 North (Russell Road) at the intersection of US17, and authorization for an exemption to the normal procurement process (formal bid).

### BACKGROUND

The water and reclaimed water funds have had a line item for relocation of utilities on CR 209 N, at a cost of around \$800,000.00, for three years. The city was fortunate that the road expansion moved north rather than south, as our utilities are in the south right of way (ROW) of CR 209 N. However, the engineers determined that the water main had to be lowered in two locations, and the reclaimed water main in one location. As the locations were in the city's easement, the relocations were performed by the city but paid for by the county. Once this was completed, the line item was removed from the FY25 CIP budget.

As the contractor was installing a stormwater pipe, they discovered our water main was in conflict with the curb inlet. In addition, the water main is only 22" under the finished grade of both the existing and new asphalt. The water main is not in a sleeve, it is almost 20 years old, and if it ruptured the damage to the road would be extensive. The impact to traffic should an event occur would be devastating.

In 2023, when the road was being designed, city staff suggested sharing the cost to bore a new line under CR 209 N and taking the water main completely out of all areas of construction. Staff obtained an estimate from General Underground as they had been the successful bidder in two previous bids and were very professional and economical. In an effort to save funds, the county chose to perform a "Case B". The projects Engineers of Record should have identified the additional conflict of the water main with the curb inlet. In hindsight, the line should have been bored. While it would be easy to cast blame, that will not resolve the issue at hand. It is the city's utility. Why the city's line was originally installed so shallow is unclear, and was not discovered until the new construction came close to existing asphalt and uncovered the line. In this location, the city's line is in the FDOT's ROW.

Staff requested from executive management authorization and funding to immediately contract with General Underground to replace the line at a proper depth and away from the full construction area. General Underground can mobilize the first week of March. Staff is now seeking ratification through the city council.

### FISCAL IMPACT

\$100,000.00 from the Water CIP Budget. The funds will be moved **from** account number 402-3033-5006401, CR 315 Utility relocations, and moved **to** 402-3033-5006391, Water Main Replacement. The actual cost to General Underground is \$93,300.00. The additional funds requested may be used to extend the line across the adjoining lot (future Zaxby's) and install a fire hydrant.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Ratification of funding in the amount of 100,000.00 to General Underground for an emergency replacement of a 12" water main under County Road 209 North (Russell Road) at the intersection of US17, and authorize an exemption to the normal procurement process (formal bid)