



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE WATER SEWER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Operations Center - Assembly Room | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville NC 28792
Monday, April 25, 2022 – 6:00 PM

MINUTES

- Present: City of Hendersonville Council Member & Vice Chair Jerry A. Smith Jr. J.D., City of Hendersonville Water/Sewer Customer Representative Chuck McGrady, Henderson County Water/Sewer Customer Representative Andrew Riddle, Village of Flat Rock Council Member David Dethero, Town of Fletcher Council Member Sheila Franklin, Town of Laurel Park Council Member Paul Hansen, City of Saluda Council Member Stan Walker, Town of Mills River Mayor Pro-Tem Randy Austin Chamber of Commerce Business Representative Wade Anderson,
- Absent: County Commissioner & Chairman Daniel Andreotta
- Vacant Seat: Partnership for Economic Development Representative
- Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle, City Clerk Angela Reece, Communications Manager Allison Justus, Budget Manager Adam Murr, Brent Detwiler, City Engineer, Lee Smith, Utilities Director, Adam Steurer, Assistant to Utilities Director, Drew Finley, and others.
- Others Present: Laurel Park Town Manager Alex Carmichael, Henderson County Engineer Marcus Jones, Mills River Town Manager Daniel Cobb, City of Saluda City Manager Steve Orr, Susan Frady PEP
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D. called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 25, 2021- Minutes – Angela Reece, City Clerk

Vice Chair Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D. advised the minutes contained in the packet will require an amendment to the date and said they should reflect the October 25, 2021 meeting. He stated he confirmed with the City Attorney that this it is permissible to amend the minutes rather than postpone adoption.

Paul Hansen moved to amend the date written on the draft minutes from July 26, 2021 to October 25, 2021. A unanimous vote of the Council Members present followed. Motion carried.

Steve Walker moved to approve the minutes of October 25, 2021, as amended. A unanimous vote of the Council Members present followed. Motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park Sewer Project – *Brent Detwiler, City Engineer*

City Engineer Brent Detwiler presented updates regarding Halfway Tree Mobile Home Park sewer project to the Council. Mr. Detwiler discussed groundwater elevation and construction.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Presentation– *Adam Murr, Budget Manager*

Budget Manager Adam Murr presented the Water and Sewer Fund budget recommendations to the Council. Council Members Wade Anderson and Randy Austin inquired regarding rates and Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle clarified there is a 5% annual rate decrease built in for outside city customers until the rates are equalized in the year 2030. Budget Manager Murr said there are still overall rate increases and clarified they are adjusted to account for rate equalization.

Vice Chair Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D. was excused from the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Council Member Chuck McGrady chaired the meeting by unanimous assent of the Council.

Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle discussed capital projects and clarified there are \$5 million dollars, allocated from the state in the form of direct ARP funding allocations, being used for wastewater improvement projects (UV treatment improvements and aeration basin repairs). Budget Manager Murr discussed system development fees, stating staff are discussing the revenue source with a rate consulting firm, looking for ways to diversify the revenue source by charging persons or businesses who want to join the system rather than the persons or businesses who are currently connected to the utility system. Assistant Manager Pahle clarified there would not be any fees associated with the County and further clarified the County has an existing agreement in the Mud Creek. He presented the North Carolina Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboard which was created by the School of Government to assist utility managers and local officials with benchmarking residential water and wastewater rates. Manager Pahle stated the city has the eleventh largest utility in the state and said the rates are affordable according to the site. The site may be accessed here: <https://efc.sog.unc.edu/resource/north-carolina-water-and-wastewater-rates-dashboard/>

B. Capital Projects Update – *Utilities Engineer, Adam Steurer*

Utilities Engineer Adam Steurer discussed capital projects and provided updates to Council.

Vice Chairman Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D. returned to the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Mr. Steurer discussed the Northside tank site and pumping station stating this project was completed in December 2021 and said it is more efficient and has a greater capacity to serve the area. Mr. Steurer discussed the water and sewer petition and assessment process as well as

sanitary sewer collection projects and clarified there will be a greenway constructed along the Mud Creek Interceptor project. He also discussed repairs at the wastewater treatment plant stating there is significant energy savings with the ultraviolet improvements which equates to approximately \$70,000 annually. Mr.

Steurer discussed the biosolids thermal dryer project and said the improvements will reduce annual landfill disposal costs and further reduce the facility's reliance on landfills.

C. Distribution of Annual Report – *Adam Murr, Budget Manager and Drew Finley Assistant to the Utilities Director*

Assistant to the Utilities Director, Drew Finley discussed the 2020-2021 Hendersonville Water and Sewer Annual Report highlights stating the city has completed its compliance efforts related to the American Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, which includes the development of a risk and resiliency assessment and an emergency response plan for the City's water and sewer utilities. The full report may be found on the city's website and booklets are available at City Hall.

D. Grant and Collaboration Opportunities – *Brent Detwiler, City Engineer*

City Engineer Brent Detwiler presented information regarding potential funding opportunities for septic and well elimination projects. Mr. Detwiler discussed the petition and assessment process and associated costs. He presented other options offered through NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure grant funds discussing how projects could be covered by the funding. Council Member Paul Hansen inquired regarding funding collaboration and Mr. Detwiler stated there must be buy-in. Vice Chairman Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D. proposed collaboration discussion to be placed on the Hendersonville City Council's May agenda for Council to consider if the city wishes to pursue working with area municipalities. Chuck McGrady stated Laurel Park would not be considered an underserved community due to the demographic.

E. Annual Schedule of Meetings Amendment– *Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D.*

Vice Chairman Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D. inquired regarding Council preference to cancel their July meeting and to amend the schedule to hold their next meeting on August 15, 2022.

Council Member Chuck McGrady moved to amend the regular schedule of meetings to add August 15, 2022 as the next meeting. A unanimous vote of the Council Members present followed. Motion carried.

D. Advisory Boards Commissions Handbook – *Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D.*

The City Clerk distributed the Advisory Boards and Commissions handbook and Code of Ethics to Council Members. Training was provided on April 5, 2022. Vice Chairman Jerry A. Smith Jr., J.D. outlined the information in book and reminded everyone all advisory boards are receiving a copy and training.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. upon assent of Council Members present.

ATTEST:

Angela L. Reece, City Clerk

Daniel Andreotta, County Commissioner & Chairman