

Montgomery City Council
AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023	Available Funds: \$116,016
Department: Admin	Prepared By: Dave McCorquodale

Subject

Consideration and possible action regarding authorization of WGA to proceed with the Lonestar Groundwater Conservation District permit amendment including a hydrogeological report to be completed by Wet Rock Groundwater Services, LLC.

Recommendation

Staff recommends authorizing WGA to engage Wet Rock Groundwater Services, LLC to prepare a hydrogeological report pursuant their proposal for a lump sum amount of \$25,000.

Discussion

Issue:

The City needs to amend our pumping permits with the Lonestar Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD). A hydrogeological report is required as part of that process.

Regulations:

The LSGCD regulates water rights and usage in our region. Pre-2021, the LSGCD required an annual permit. Part of the permit renewal was a relatively simple way to amend the amount of water needed for the upcoming year. In 2021, the LSGCD changed their permits to a perpetual permit which eliminated the need for annual renewals. With this change, the process to amend/increase the permitted pumping amounts became more detailed and requires additional data.

Analysis:

The City has three (3) groundwater wells that provide our drinking water. Two of these wells draw water from the Jasper Aquifer and one well draws from the Catahoula Aquifer. In order to use this groundwater, we have pumping permits with the LSGCD that are based on the amount of water we anticipate using that year. As water demand increases in the City due to population growth and new development, we need to amend these permits to reflect an increase in the amount of water we need to meet that demand.

Fiscal Review:

The Water & Sewer Fund has received \$2,727,419 in revenue to date this fiscal year. Expenses to date in this fiscal year are \$2,611,403. There is one more month remaining in the fiscal year. This results in \$116,016 in available funds. Although this expense was not budgeted for as part of the FY2023 budgeting process, there are funds to cover the cost of the report without drawing on fund reserves.

Conclusion:

In order to continue to meet the demand of the City's existing and future water customers, a permit amendment is required. This hydrogeological report is a necessary part of the amendment. Staff recommends authorizing WGA to execute the proposal as presented.

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Approved By		
Assistant City Administrator & Planning & Development Director	Dave McCorquodale	Date: 09/08/2023
City Administrator	Gary Palmer	Date: 09/08/2023