

**PUBLIC ENTERPRISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL BOARDROOM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007 – 5:00 P.M.**

Committee Members

Alderman Dana McLendon, Chair
Alderman Beverly Burger
Alderman Dennis Phillips

Others Present

Jay Johnson, City Administrator
Randy Wetmore, Deputy City Administrator
David Parker, ACA Public Works
Joe Williams, Solid Waste, Director
Mayor Tom Miller
Doug Berry, City Attorney
Mark Hilty, Assistant Director Water & Wastewater
Alderman Pam Lewis
Krissy McNeeley, Administrative Assistant Engineering

1. Call to Order

Alderman McLendon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Alderman Burger moved for approval of the November 8, 2006 Special Meeting minutes. Seconded by Alderman Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments

None forthcoming on non-agenda items.

**SOLID WASTE
Joe Williams, Director**

4. Review and Discussion of Possible Solid Waste Recycling Program Options

At the November meeting, Alderman Phillips made a motion to instruct Solid Waste to create a recycling program, including costs, and to be instituted on a phase-in basis.

Joe Williams presented recycling options with phase-in costs. Option 1: Drop-Off Facility-Roll Off. Option 1-A: Drop-Off Facility-Trailers. Option 2: Curbside-Automated. Option 2-A: Curbside-Segmented Trailers. Option 3: Curbside-Segmented Trailers/E-O-W with Yard Waste. Costs were presented in Raw Dollars, Per Home Per Month, and Property Tax.

Mr. Williams stated the Curbside Co-Mingled Option is the safest option for residents and Solid Waste employees, but it is the most expensive. To implement the Drop-Off Option is expensive as well as sites would need to be found and purchased. The Drop-Off Option is not feasible due to difficulty in procuring sites. The Option requiring the sorting of recycling into trailers puts the employees at risk. Cost to residents to implement recycling is an issue as well.

Discussion ensued regarding citizens' non-compliance in putting yard waste in paper bags. This has been on the books for two or three years and should be enforced. The rule is in Title XVII on the Website.

Jay Johnson offered another option; put recycling out for bid. The City has neither the manpower nor trucks to provide curbside service. Citizens could then contract with the private carrier.

Walter Johnson of Hillsboro Road, Franklin, recognized by the Chair, said a contract basis was a good way to get experience factor before proceeding with a program.

Committee consensus was to forward specific questions and comments as to what is expected of a recycling program to Mr. Williams. These will then be part of discussion at a Special BOMA Workshop meeting to be scheduled by Mr. Johnson.

Alderman Burger moved to have Mr. Williams put together a presentation of all scenarios for a BOMA Work Session with open discussion and then send it back to this Committee. Seconded by Alderman McLendon. Motion carried unanimously.

All documents will be distributed to BOMA prior to the special session.

WATER AND WASTEWATER
David Parker, ACA Public Works
Mark Hilty, Assistant Director

5. Consideration of the Reimbursement Agreement for Off-Site Sanitary Sewer Construction with BRIC Constructors, Inc.

Item deferred one month.

Item 8 taken out of order

8. Consideration of the Reimbursement Agreement for Off-Site Sanitary Sewer Construction with Simmons Ridge, LLC.

David Parker noted the Agreement met with approval with a few small corrections.

Alderman Phillips moved for approval. Seconded by Alderman Burger. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Review and Discussion of Proposed Special Assessment District, Resolution 2006-31, for Highgate Subdivision (Continued from November 8, 2006)

Alderman Burger gave a presentation on the E-1 grinder pump purported to be the latest technology in grinders. Franklin generally does not use grinder pumps because of maintenance and other considerations. Brentwood, however, does use these pumps, and Alderman Burger met with their engineers. Were Highgate residents to use grinder pumps, each homeowner would be responsible to purchase and maintain their own. The E-1 is ideal for hilly and rocky terrain. It is not a centrifuge pump but a semi-positive displacement pump that works better than the centrifuge and has a longer life. The cost of each pump is under \$3,000. Twenty-four hour service should be available through the retailer. A representative is willing to give a presentation to Highgate residents and/or the City. Alderman Burger would like the City to consider the E-1 for the 29 homes in Highgate, as it would be more cost effective for the residents.

Alderman McLendon noted that at the last meeting, a significant number of residents did not want grinder pumps nor did they want to pay for a Special Assessment District. Some homeowners systems still work. He further stated the City must either de-annex Highgate or figure out how to serve the area, either all gravity or depart from tradition and allow some grinder pumps.

Alderman McLendon asked if the Committee supported de-annexation. He does not support de-annexation nor does Alderman Burger. Alderman Philips was undecided.

David Parker stated the City of Franklin is the only service provider for sanitary sewer service in the area. The only other option for non-working septic systems is condemnation. Septic systems will obsolesce.

Although it is a significant deviation from policy for undeveloped areas, this would be a retro fitting in a stable mature neighborhood and grinder pumps would be a significantly lower cost to the residents. Alderman McLendon asked if the Committee would be willing to permit grinder pumps and not insist on gravity only.

Alderman Phillips commented grinders have previously been allowed in the City. Mr. Parker related that in Tremont it is not a true grinder system. They are commercial like a regular lift station and not like individual grinder pumps.

Alderman McLendon again asked if the Committee is prepared to enable grinder pumps to solve the problem. Alderman Burger is in favor of grinder pumps. Alderman Phillips asked David Parker's opinion. Mr. Parker stated he feels the City should not get into grinder pumps. He agreed the E-1 is better, but it will at some point fail. In addition, even though the homeowner is required to maintain the system, but does not, the City is still liable because they are the end user and the City is the system.

Alderman McLendon noted that though the three aldermen on this Committee may agree to the use of grinder pumps, when the recommendation is taken to BOMA there is the possibility of defeat as the other five aldermen will be voting on the issue.

Alderman Phillips related that with the information received tonight he believes grinder pumps should be allowed in certain situations. Alderman Burger reiterated she is in favor of grinder pumps. Alderman McLendon told residents when this goes to the Board they can express what it is they want. However, he does not advocate form letters. Communication with individual Board members is preferable.

David Parker offered another option in lieu of grinders: a step system, which is an effluent system that allows the system to work more efficiently with less maintenance because the pumps do not have to work as hard. The only problem with the step system is they pump effluent and there must be enough flow to allow sufficient mixing to make the flow aerobic when it gets into the system. It must be verified the septic is in good shape. It was pointed out the field is what fails, not the tank. It is very costly to decommission a septic system and the City does not incur that expense. Alderman Lewis ask if the step system required blasting. David Parker responded it required no more blasting than with the grinder. He stressed there would be some blasting because of the high rock in the subdivision.

Alderman McLendon recapped Committee discussion: de-annexation is not an option. Response favorable to grinder or step system. All discussion has included the premise of making a Special Assessment District for all homeowners in Highgate. No one can opt-out and pay nothing while everyone else pays. The City can only subsidize up to 25% per state law.

Jay Johnson pointed out in the gravity system it is not just the assessment district; it must go to the adjacent property line. That portion the City does pay. City policy is that if there are roots or other problems between the street/right-of-way and the house it remains the homeowner's responsibility.

Alderman Phillips made a motion to table Resolution 2006-31, and request staff to draft a new resolution for the most cost effective and efficient method of delivery of wastewater treatment, including grinder pumps and/or step system, for residents of the Special Assessment District (Highgate Subdivision), and to refer the resolution back to this Committee for further discussion. Seconded by Alderman Burger.

Alderman McLendon then asked if there were comments from Highgate residents.

Michael H, Century Oak Drive. Residents will pay some cost or all of the line through subdivision. Why be required to hook into if septic system is still working.

Alderman McLendon said the only way is for all homeowners to pay for the Special Assessment District. It is better to capture all ratepayers. It would be inequitable the other way. Mr. H asked if one did not need to be hooked in would it decrease the initial cost. It was explained there are valid reasons to capture ratepayers when creating a system.

Greg Wade. They will still pay a monthly fee but not have to pay to have it installed.

Phil Breeden, 104 Century Oak Drive. A lot has happened since the last meeting. The blasting will be less and to a lesser depth, and the City is considering grinders. He wanted the City to know the neighborhood is becoming more unified.

Mary Bradley, 107 Windsor Way. A big concern is she has heavily landscaped and does irrigation. Could gray water be used? David Parker replied she would need to get approval through the state. Alderman McLendon thought the policies regarding irrigation taps should be revisited to a flat rate, amortize, or average out. The rise in bills in summer should not be seen as excess in-home use such as flushing, etc.

Pat Coughlin, 109 Century Oak. If property values go up by putting in a new system, they will pay more taxes. At the last meeting, sewer project estimates were handed-out on full gravity only. The residents did not see the projected estimates with grinders or the combination of grinders and gravity. If he is buying a \$3,000 pump plus electrical, etc., then adding on to the main line it is in effect is more expensive to have a grinder pump and there would be blasting anyway.

Gene Wilson, 107 Engle Court. Each lot was to pay a percentage of the cost of the trunk line according to the lot size or appraisal. Why not consider the 29 homes paying the same amount. Doug Berry noted state law requires this be done according to assessment. Mr. Wilson recommends if considering grinder pumps that they all have them and that the trunk lines run the streets not creek bed.

Question called:

Motion as previously stated carried unanimously.

7. Discussion of Reclaimed Water Wholesale Customers

Mallory Valley Utility District has asked to become a “wholesale” purchaser of treated effluent wastewater. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of granting the request. Committee consensus was to urge staff to continue to develop questions and answers regarding this issue.

9. Receive the Matrix Consulting Group’s Management Study of the Water Management Department

Randy Wetmore distributed the Study to Committee aldermen. This will be discussed with the consultant during the regular Enterprise meeting on February 20.

10. Adjourn

Alderman McLendon called for adjournment at 7:06 p.m.

Dana McLendon, Chair

Minutes prepared by Linda Fulwider, Board Recording Secretary, City Administrator's Office