

TANEYTOWN WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE

MINUTES – Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Committee Members in Attendance:

Barbara Cook

Don Frazier, Councilman

Jackie Jones

Joe Vigliotti, Councilman

Gail Wilson

Absent:

Diane Foster, Mayor Pro Tem, Committee Chair

Meeting convened at 10:00 AM in City Council Chambers Conference Room.

Councilman and Committee Recording Secretary Joe Vigliotti was appointed to chair the committee in Mayor Pro Tem and Committee Chairwoman Diane Foster's absence. Vigliotti noted that the Committee's interim report, the *Initial Actions Project* is slated for introduction to the Mayor and City Council at the September 9, 2015 Workshop Meeting. Vigliotti then moved the committee into member reports.

Gail Wilson began by saying that she was having second thoughts about the rain barrel initiative, due to concerns over how many people might actually participate in the program. If the rain barrel initiative is to be done, it would have to be done through a grant received by, and administered through the city government. Barbara Cook wondered if the initiative would be for everyone, but Wilson explained that the barrels would only be available to certain citizens. Jackie Jones noted that several years ago, rain barrel installation in Carroll Vista proved to be difficult and not worth the time. Vigliotti suggested informational outreach about rain barrels to the public, rather than an actual program to distribute rain barrels, might be best. Wilson noted that the rain barrel initiative will be put on hold for the time being.

Wilson continued her report by discussing the possibility of Community Block Development Grants (CDBGs). Wilson noted that a retroactive grant could help pay for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Councilman Don Frazier commended Wilson for her hard work. Wilson commended City Economic Director Nancy McCormick for assistance in researching grants. Wilson went on to say that if Indoor Plumbing

Program (IPP) grants were to be pursued, this would have to be done with citizens applying through the city government.

Cook then moved into updating the committee on her own efforts. She is awaiting a meeting later in September with Treasurer Bobbi-Jo Fout, and pending this meeting will have more information available for the committee. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 28, 2015.

Frazier then moved into his report. He indicated that City Manager Henry Heine and Fout had continued to respond to questions regarding city financial information, and noted that they were continuing to collect information on outstanding questions. Frazier revealed that he learned the city had approximately \$8.1-million in reserves, enough to pay off the debt while also exercising caution about the city's bond rating. Frazier explained that self-financing was a real possibility. Wilson questioned whether or not this was advisable. Frazier stated that it is, but would require research and discussion. Jones stated that the 2010-2011 budget took care of main roads in Taneytown, but that back streets also need help. She also cautioned about going more deeply into debt, and expressed hope that new developments would help balance things out in the budget. Brief comments were taken from the audience. Carl Ebaugh questioned the accuracy of the \$8.1-million reserve, and suggested Frazier ask for more information on the exact number. Councilman Bradley Wantz, also in the audience, noted that the city needed to maintain a certain amount of money in reserve for its credit rating.

Frazier went on to question the continuing validity of the Davenport assessment, saying that even Davenport advised against adhering to an unchanged plan. Frazier urged that the city not adhere to the existing report from Davenport. Frazier also noted that the idea of selling graywater should be pursued. Vigliotti noted that the committee should be cautious about its use of terminology, because it has been using "graywater" and "wastewater" interchangeably when they are actually two distinct kinds of water. Frazier and the rest of the committee agreed it was important to be exact in the use of such terms.

Frazier stated that the Water and Sewer Committee has already helped to bring about changes in town by turning attention to failed water meter batteries, and getting the city administration to move on the issue. He applauded the work of the committee.

Vigliotti then moved into his report on preparing the long-range actions assessment. Vigliotti stated that he is beginning early preparations for the report, and based on the direction of the

committee from the last meeting, would omit micro grid systems as the committee at large deemed it outside the parameters of the committee. After a brief discussion by the committee, it was decided at large that micro grid systems were important to saving money and increasing efficiency, and Vigliotti noted that he would include micro grid systems in the long-range report.

Jones then moved into her report. She noted briefly that Carroll County does not sell its graywater; and that everything she wished to speak about during her committee report she had discussed elsewhere during the meeting.

Comments were then taken from the audience. Wantz stressed the point that there is a difference between wastewater and graywater, but that graywater can come from wastewater once human waste is removed. He also noted that if water is to be sold, it must not violate the amount the city is required to return into the City of Frederick's recharge aquifer.

With no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Vigliotti
Taneytown Water and Sewer Committee Recording Secretary
Taneytown City Councilman