Tropic Town Public Hearing Meeting

Minutes of the Tropic Town Public Hearing Meeting
For the
Held September 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tropic Town Heritage Center

PRESENT: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff **BOARD MEMBERS**: Dennis Pollock, Lisa Johnson, Kelly Shakespear and Brook Wiseman. Marie Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk & Dayne Shakespear - Treasurer

OTHERS: Ken Tuttle, Justin Atkinson, Joseph Phillips, Annett Chynoweth

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

Welcome: Mayor Brinkerhoff thanked those in attendance to discuss improvements and needs to the Town culinary water system; which include the installation of a new water line to BV Elementary School, replace and install electronic meters, identify/distribution of water shares and to finish the redevelopment of Spring Creek.

Purpose: Discuss making application to the CIB for funding implement these culinary water improvements

Time was turned over to Joseph Phillips

The following items were discussed:

~ Project Scope & Need
~ Financing Alternatives
~ Anticipated Financial Impact to the Town
~ Implementation Schedule

Project Scope & Need

~ The current water line at the BV Elementary School is not adequate; a new water main will be replaced.

~ The Council is working with Sunrise Engineering in researching the Town's water rights and to negotiate with the Spring Creek Irrigation Company for additional acre feet of culinary water.

~ Implement an electronic water meter reading system, providing more accurate readings. Electronic meters are more expensive. Along with the increase of water/sewer base rates and water use rates, the Council will be revising water/sewer connections & impact fees on new connections. Funding received will replace existing meters at no cost to those currently being maintained; new connections.

~ Expansion of the spring collection area at Spring Creek Spring is needed to increase the capacity and improve the reliability of the culinary water source for the system.

Financing

Total cost of the project is about $840,000. Depending on funding terms offered, the annual payment may be in the range of $25,000 and $40,000. The Town's current cash flow projection can accept that level of obligation. The Town does not anticipate needing to raise rates above what has already been done. The Town confirmed its commitment of $100,000 from the water capital improvements fund to the project.

Mayor Brinkerhoff reported the Town received a 50%-50% Grant/Loan for the sewer lagoon project and is hoping to receive this same for this project. Water & Sewer base rates were increase from $24 to $33; and implemented tiered water use billing as well as a tier sewer billing system. The increase executed provides evidence the Town is doing their part to assist in these improvements.

Implementation

CIB Application deadline is October 1, 2019 * Meeting to review application is in November; with the funds given available in February 2020. Hoping to begin the project in Spring of 2020.

Comments/Questions

Annette Chynoweth inquired about the electronic meters. Mayor Brinkerhoff and Council stated the method currently used takes two-(2) to three-(3) days and are read eight-(8) months out of the year; leaving the remaining four-(4) months to be calculated and adjusted in the spring. The installation of electronic meters will be beneficial providing better accurate readings year round, time management, and steady cash flow, etc.

Regarding previous CIB funded Spring Creek redevelopment project, what was the possibility of combining the two, rather than having two different payments for the same project. Council member Kelly Shakespear stated they had discussed this with Sunrise Engineering, but was advised it wouldn't be possible.

Close

A motion was made by Dennis Pollock to adjourn the public hearing – Second by Lisa Johnson. Voting was unanimous with Council persons Dennis, Brook, Lisa and Kelly voting "aye". Mayor abstained.

Approved this 17th day of October 2019
Marie H Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk