

CITY OF DARLINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OCTOBER 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Breunig at 7:05 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Present at roll call were: Don Osterday, Steve Pickett, Bev Anderson and Cindy Corley. Excused absence: John Sonsalla and Dave Gough. Also present were: Bill McDaniel, Bob Salmi, Jason King, Suzy Osterday, Ben Peotter of Cornerstone Environmental Group, LLC, and Phil Risseeuw.

Motion by Anderson second by Pickett that the meeting notice and agenda were properly posted. Motion carried. Motion by Pickett second by Anderson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Breunig then asked Bob Salmi to introduce Ben Peotter of Cornerstone Environmental Group, LLC to those present. Bob stated Mr. Peotter is the engineer that has been assisting the City with DNR concerns with the former landfill site near Piggly Wiggly Plaza. Mr. Peotter then updated the Council on landfill gas monitoring at the former landfill site, and their costs to date. Ben then presented his proposed landfill remediation system upgrades and estimated costs going forward, to comply with recent DNR requirements. Copies of a memorandum and site map prepared by Ben Peotter were included in the agenda packet. The memorandum also included a projection of additional consulting fees for the recommended work.

The proposal calls for the installation of additional piping to connect the current probes; and upgrade the current underground system from a "passive" one to an "active" one. An explosion proof blower will then be added, creating a vacuum to vent the system. It is being proposed to install the blower in the utility room of the concession stand building in Riverside Park. The estimated cost of the pipe and blower installation is \$21,850.00. And the estimate consulting costs for monthly gas monitoring and reporting for twelve months is \$9,000.00.

Several questions were asked by those present regarding the former landfill site, and related methane gas readings. Mr. Peotter reported on the work already completed; the concerns of representatives of the DNR; the possible consequences of non voluntary compliance with DNR requirements; and the anticipated outcome of upgrading the current gas monitoring underground system from "passive" to "active". Also discussed was the source of City funds to pay for these system upgrades. After discussion and consideration, motion by Osterday second by Anderson to approve the proposal submitted by Ben Peotter as presented; with costs not to exceed the amounts provided; with payment of these expenses from the City's contingency fund. Motion carried. Mr. Peotter then left the meeting.

Under new business, Suzy Osterday made a presentation regarding the Darlington Chamber/Main Street Program's accomplishments for 2011. Suzy stated she is proud of the work completed this last year, and is also proud that there is only one empty building on Main Street. Suzy distributed some examples of advertising programs they participate in. She also reported on several events held this past year. Suzy then thanked all her great volunteers, board members and city crew for all their help. Discussion was then held concerning other projects the Chamber/Main Street Program could work on.

Suzy then reported their operating budget is \$51,000.00 per year, of which the City has provided \$15,000.00. Suzy then asked those present to consider the same \$15,000.00 support of the Chamber/Main Street Program for 2012. After review and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Anderson to recommend to the Finance and Personnel Committee their consideration of this request. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Darlington and the Darlington Professional Police Association. A copy of the proposed memorandum was included in the agenda packet. The memorandum is requesting a one time waiver of payroll, FICA, and retirement benefits earned by employees of the DPPA while on special assignment for activities surrounding the death of Army Sgt. Jakob Roelli. At the request of the DPPA, said funds will be diverted to the Darlington Area Veteran's Memorial Fund. The total amount related to this request is \$1,289.20. The Memorandum of Understanding has already been approved by representatives of the Darlington Professional Police Association. After review and consideration, motion by Anderson second by Pickett to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Darlington and the Darlington Professional Police Association as presented, with a special Thank-You to the Police Officers involved. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning a request from representatives of Darlington Canoe Festival, Inc., for financial support toward the 2012 event. A copy of a letter from representatives of the Darlington Canoe Festival Committee was included in the agenda packet. Cindy Corley reported on the success of the 2011 Canoe Festival weekend. She also thanked all the volunteers and city crew for their support. Suzy Osterday stated she felt the Canoe Festival event was very important to Darlington, and deserved City support. In past years, the City has contributed \$4,000.00 toward this event, and the committee is requesting that same amount for 2012. After discussion and consideration, motion by Corley second by Pickett to recommend to the Finance and Personnel Committee their consideration of this request. Motion carried. Suzy Osterday then left the meeting.

Discussion was then held concerning the following recommendations from the Water and Sewer Committee. A copy of the meeting minutes was included in the agenda packet.

- Approve installation of fine bubble aeration equipment at the wastewater treatment plant. The estimated cost of this project is \$65,000 to \$70,000 for equipment and installation. This project is eligible for Focus on Energy grant funding in the amount of \$9,798.00. Bob Salmi answered questions about the project. After discussion and consideration, motion by Anderson second by Corley to accept the recommendation from the Water and Sewer Committee and approve the installation of fine bubble aeration equipment at the wastewater treatment plant as presented. Motion carried.
- Approve grant agreement with Focus on Energy. The above mentioned project is eligible for Focus on Energy grant funding in the amount of \$9,798.00. After discussion and consideration, motion by Anderson second by Osterday to accept the recommendation from the Water and Sewer Committee and approve the proposed grant agreement with Focus on Energy as presented. Motion carried.

- Approve 2012 Water Dept. budget. The proposed budget calls for total revenues of \$540,000.00 and total expenses of \$512,298.00; resulting in a net income of \$27,702.00. There is sufficient cash flow to cover all operating expenses and debt repayment obligations. After discussion and consideration, motion by Osterday second by Pickett to accept the recommendation from the Water and Sewer Committee and approve the 2012 Water Dept. budget as presented. Motion carried.
- Approve 2012 Sewer Dept. budget. The proposed budget calls for total revenues of \$730,000.00 and total expenses of \$721,693.00; for a net income of \$8,307.00. There is sufficient cash flow to cover all operating expenses and debt repayment obligations. After discussion and consideration, motion by Osterday second by Pickett to accept the recommendation from the Water and Sewer Committee and approve the 2012 Sewer Dept. budget as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then held concerning the following recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee. This meeting was held just prior to this Council meeting.

- Creation of a special revenue fund for payment of garbage and recycling expenses. This proposal will remove the cost of garbage and recycling expenses to the utility bill. The proposed budget for this special revenue fund is \$126,000.00; which will be divided over the total number of residential properties, and added to their quarterly utility bill. The effective date of the creation of this fund is December 1, 2011. After discussion and consideration, motion by Anderson second by Corley to accept the recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee and approve the creation of a special revenue fund for payment of garbage and recycling expenses as presented. Motion carried.
- Contract renewal proposal from representatives of the Police Union. Mayor Breunig reported a tentative agreement has been reached with representatives of the Police Union, however the final contract is not ready for Council review and approval. This matter was tabled until the final contract is ready.

The September 30, 2011 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. were then presented for approval. After review and consideration, motion by Pickett second by Anderson to approve the September 30, 2011 financial statements for the City, Water Dept. and Sewer Dept. as presented. Motion carried.

Under reports of committees, a meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at 6:30 PM, to review and consider proposed 2012 department budgets.

There being no further business for this meeting, motion by Pickett second by Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Motion carried.

CITY OF DARLINGTON

Philip A. Risseuw, Clerk-Treasurer