

FINANCE & UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 6:00 PM

The Committee meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Nathan Brown. Those present included: Mayor Nathan Brown, Commission Members Tom Smith, Syree Williams and Brian Keller, and staff members Dave Dunn, Carrie Myers, John Gerstner, Jeremy Mose, Matt Campbell, and Rikki Bruchey. Council Member John Dayton entered at 6:17pm.

Pressure Sensors Quote

Mr. Gerstner stated this was a budgeted expense. These pressure sensors alert staff to potential failures in pressure reducing valves in our system, allowing for quicker repairs and less busted lines. The Commission recommended approval of the quote from FlowNetworx, Inc. for \$35,998.00. This item will be sent to Council for final approval.

Big Bertha Pump Quote

Mr. Mose stated this bypass pump at the waste water plant is used to clean out tanks and such. He stated the current pump is not wired to code and presents a safety hazard when in use. This pre-budgeted expense will be an important safety upgrade. The Commission recommended approval of the quote from MED Inc. for \$10,500.00. This item will be sent to Council for final approval.

County Water Quality Report

Mr. Campbell gave highlights from the report. Staff received numerous discolored water complaints several months ago, and asked Frederick County to conduct an independent analysis of the City's system for any possible problems or suggestions. Mr. Campbell stated one change staff has already implemented was to purchase a chemical from Univar instead of Maryland Chemicals, as the Univar chemical has a lower iron content. Staff has noticed a great difference in discoloration since that switch. Mr. Campbell also stated a big cause of discolored water comes from old pipes. The interior coating of pipes wears over time causing discoloration. He stated ongoing pipe replacement or relining will help with this issue. He also stated bringing Yourtee Springs back online will help further with this issue. This report will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Corrosion Inhibitor Chemical Addition

Mr. Campbell discussed this item, which was proposed in the Frederick County report. The addition of this chemical would coat and protect pipes, preventing further discoloration of the water. He stated this low-dose chemical is commonly used by municipalities. Staff received a quote from Whitman, Requardt to conduct the design and obtain a construction permit, but staff felt the quote was high. Mr. Campbell will pursue other quotes for this work to add to next year's budget.

FY21 Audit

Mr. Dunn explained this item was already presented to the Council, but staff wanted to discuss the audit with the Commission. Ms. Bruchey discussed the one finding. The Commission recommended rolling the excess amount into reserves. This item will be brought to a future Council Meeting for approval.

Park Equipment Grants

Ms. Myers discussed this item. Additional LPPI money was made available to the City this year, in addition to the typical POS grant funding. Staff requested and was approved for LPPI funding in the amount of \$545,000. Ms. Myers stated several parks were slated to be improved with this funding and would be presenting the proposal to the Parks and Rec Committee next week, and the full Council at their December meeting.

Delinquent Account vs. Reconnection Fees

Mayor Brown discussed this issue. Currently the City ordinance calls for a reconnection fee of \$75 after shut offs have occurred, however, staff would instead like to assess this fee as a shut-off administrative fee prior to shut offs, but after the final shut off list has been generated. The Mayor stated staff would draft updated language to amend this ordinance and bring it back for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.