



City Administrator's Report

January 13, 2022

County Approves ARPA Funding Request

In December, the Board approved Resolution 1005, authorizing Mayor Boley to sign a Funding Request for Clay County American Rescue Plan Act funds. At the Board of County Commissioners meeting last night, the Board approved the funding request totaling \$805,000 for the raw water pump station project. As the Board will recall, the City is using the totality of its ARPA funds for the project and this portion from the County will fully fund the project currently under construction.

Water Billing Concerns

As the Board is aware, concerns have been expressed regarding the City's utility billing process. Staff are reviewing the issues and processes in other communities providing utility service. It is anticipated that staff would be able to bring information forward for Board review at the February 15 Board meeting.

Wastewater Floating Aerator

The FY22 CIP includes \$200,000 for a floating Aerator at the wastewater treatment plant. Due to significant price increases, the amount included in the budget for the equipment has doubled. Additionally, in review of the project, staff has determined that the scope of the project is likely too small, beyond just replacement of a piece of equipment. Through conversations with utility engineers at HDR, additional pumps, structural and electrical work is required for safe installation of a new aerator.

Tuesday's agenda includes an authorization for design work by HDR to accomplish this project and to revise project cost estimates for completion of the project, likely in FY23.

Snow Event Evaluation:

In order to reflect on our winter weather response, staff has implemented a new snow event evaluation. The evaluation will look at the overall staff response, what treatment method was used, what went well and what did not go well during the snow event, and how to improve for the next event.

Smithville experienced its first snow event of the winter season on January 1, 2022. The city had a team of seven staff members present to provide the winter response, including a utility inspector and all street crew available (one employee is currently on

worker's compensation light duty) One of the City trucks broke down due to a dead battery, which was quickly replaced, and the vehicle placed back in service.

The city is contracting with R&S Lawn Service for residential snow removal in two neighborhoods, Harborview and Rollins Landing. The contractor initially had one truck and staff member respond but increased to two trucks and three staff members to enhance their response. Staff worked 10.5 hours on Saturday and used 90 tons of salt.

Report a Concern comments centered on ability to access mailboxes in Harbor View. Contractors were notified about this complaint and will be reminded in future events not to push snow in front of mailboxes.

As would be expected, additional staffing would enhance staff response to snow events. Additionally, new vehicles (currently on order from Enterprise) would provide more reliability.

Staff is preparing for another anticipated snow event to begin Friday night into Saturday. At this time, accumulations are forecasted to be one to three inches, beginning late Friday night into Saturday morning. Salt reserves have been replenished, the contractor has been notified and crews are monitoring and are prepared to respond.

GIS Mapping Update:

The City of Smithville has hired Surveying And Mapping (SAM), LLC to survey and map the City's utility systems. This generally consists of locating utility features with global positioning system (GPS) equipment. They will be locating our sewer, water, and stormwater infrastructure. SAM will be starting with the sewer system.

This work will be ongoing during the months of February through August of 2022. You may notice employees of SAM, LLC working in your neighborhood. They will occasionally need access into and through private property. The City has easements to perform this type of work and SAM, LLC will be as respectful and unobtrusive as possible while completing this project.

As with any major project, there will be some inconveniences at times, but no service will be interrupted while this project is taking place. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact SAM, LLC at (660) 562-0050 or contact Gina Pate with City at (816) 534-3600.

In an effort to provide information on this project, staff will be posting information on social media and sending letters to HOAs.

DirectionFinder Survey

To date, more than 440 survey responses have been received by the consultant. Analysis of the information has begun and work on the final report will begin later this month. The report will be presented to the Board at the Work Session on February 15.

MML Westgate Dinner

Due to concerns relating to the current number of COVID cases, MML has cancelled the West Gate dinner scheduled for January 27. A potential date later this spring may be scheduled, information will be shared as available.

City Hall Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Day

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.