

**MINUTES OF THE CITY-COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 22, 2024, AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
299 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA**

Authority Members Present:

Marc Decker  
Clay Browning (5:10 PM)  
Jacob Eighner  
Alisha Beck  
Bradley Smith  
Tony Whidden  
Jerry (Gator) Sapp  
Tim Stanley  
Hattie Taylor

Others Present:

Ashley Wills, City Clerk  
Brad Simmons, Public Works Director  
Steve Ramunni, City Attorney  
Larry Tibbs, City Manager  
June Fisher, County Manager  
Al Brown, Operator

**ROLL CALL:** Given By Eighner.

**ITEM 1: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Invocation given by Vanassche and Pledge of Allegiance lead by Ramunni.

**ITEM 2: ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA.**

NONE.

**ITEM 3: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEETING MINUTES:**

MARCH 26, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION:** By Beck to approve March 26, 2024, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Sapp motion carried.

**ITEM 4: DISCUSS THE SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR GCDC:**

**Tibbs** states the CCPWA board approved reducing the ERC's at GCDC from 422 to 30 from March 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and then again from October 2023 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Those extensions are now over without any further action we will revert back to our normal ERC.

**Stanley** states as of right now there is no one out there besides the Sheriffs department, there is a good chance in the next few months something maybe happening out there to bring it back into utilization, charging that extra fee is just an extra burden on the County which we are all in this together. If we can extend it until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Fisher** states we have an agreement with GCDC until September 30<sup>th</sup>, by June we should know which direction this is going.

**Ramunni** can we get a copy of that agreement.

**Fisher** states absolutely

**Beck** states my concerns are this is an election year, we want to work together however we have to run this as a business, and looking at this as a business owner they made an agreement with us to pay this amount and unfortunately you all sit on the board and have to pay the bill on the other side. I'm just worried because we had someone coming in and then you don't plus its election year and we are waiting for possibly new members, and then we are waiting another 6 months or longer.

**Stanley** states whatever you'll increase the rates to out there that is what the County is going to pay because that is the agreement we have with GCDC, I understand the point of all the delaying but if something dose not happen out there by September it's probably going to be shut down completely. There are works in the plan and it looks like it's going to come back.

**Eighner** states can you give us a dollar amount.

**Tibbs** states it's a reduction of \$3,860 a month. The problem we are running into now is we are making a lot of improvements into our sewer, which we are having to fund out of our current revenue. At the last meeting we authorized to do a rate study, due to the interlocal agreement states we are supposed to have sufficient revenue to cover the normal operation, improvements and also have a reserve. It's hard to have any kind of reserve with revenue down.

**Stanly** states there was a rumor that the GEO was going to buy that facility but if they were too, would the GEO inherit those same ERC's.

**Tibbs** states we have a utility argument with GCDC and CCPWA, but if someone new buys it out they would have to come and negotiate a new agreement.

**Ramunni** states I will have to check the agreement I'm sure its affective to attending assigns or successors to that but typically you would want to renegotiate a developer agreement with then. If we are going to entertain a motion, I would say to extend it to a date or sooner if another user inquiries so that you all are not locked in.

**Fisher** states June is when the sheriff thinks he will have some information on weather things are coming back or not, The actual extension is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Eighner** states refresh my memory, but we are about to enter our second budget with lowing the ERC's.

**Tibbs** states yes, it will impact this year's budget.

**Eighner** states we were told 2 years ago that the prison might be closing, and we may have to adjust or budget because of the short fall. We are going on about two years with the City of Moore Haven taking about a \$8,000.00 hit a month, and like Whidden stated we are all in this together. And at The same time, we are going out to raise our sewer rates but yet we are going to give ourselves a break.

**Taylor** states this may be an easier decision if we wait until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION:** By Stanley to extend the ERC's reduction until June 30<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Whidden motion carried.

**Ramunni** states just an FYI we have to do the same exercise with the City.

**ITEM 5: AL BROWN TO GIVE REPORT:**

**Brown** states I'm starting to see a slight impact on the wastewater plant as far as sand and grit, with the connections of people connecting in, they are letting stuff get into their sewer lines while they are tying in, and it is showing up at the plant. It can be embracive to the membranes once all of this gets to an end. I will be coming back and asking for us to get a clean out of the EQ tank to remove all the dirt mounds and sand, because it will find its way of being suspended. I do have a pump that is bad in phase 1, I will have to pull it and get it to Mater's for repairs. On the Ave H lift station, I am working on wiring that up and getting it back online so we can get off that emergency backup.

**Eighner** states do you have a time frame of when the Ave H lift station should be done.

**Brown** states it looks to be done once I get this running they will just have to come back and dress it up/ clean up. today I will go back over there and finish wiring it up.

**Eighner** states okay, so any day. The lift station on Ave H has been pretty much rebuilt from the ground up, the pump we have to rent is not cheap. I have asked them to go and pump out every lift station we have and find out what we need to do on them, everything in those tanks get eaten up by the corrosion and sewage, so I am pretty sure we are going to have some repairs on the other lift stations before we have to rent another pump. But it has to be done.

**Brown** states Ave H and the Baseball field are the two primary lift stations that send the wastewater to the plant, they catch all the relays from the other lift stations. Both of those are major lift stations.

**Tibbs** states with the new elementary school project, the engineers have been looking at those lift stations to see what improvements all need to be made because that is part of the construction of the new school.

**Browning** states how often do we go through those pumps, As in pulling the pump and doing a total rebuild/ service on them.

**Brown** states we don't do them until one fails when Tripp was doing the work and once we rebuilt them 3 times there was no since in rebuilding them after that because of the wear and casings on it.

**Browning** states how long dose a pump lasts from new to rebuild.

**Brown** states different pumps run for different hours, Ave H, and the Baseball field those pumps run a lot. They can go for a year to 2 years. They can malfunction and cause it to overheat and cause a pump failure. Good thing is we have to have two pumps in the lift station, so if one does fail, we have a back up ready to put there while we get the other pump repaired. I think we have at least one pump of each horsepower at the warehouse.

**ITEM 6: CRAIG A. SMITH TO GIVE REPORT:**

NONE.

**ITEM 7: CAS GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES TO GIVE REPORT:**

**Vanassche** states legislative wise the governor did the \$1.5 billion dollar budget for the Everglades restoration money, \$530 million for the water quality improvement projects and \$135 million for water quality grant program these are those amounts that we apply to each year on the portal. We have been putting in the wastewater project because we are in budget for the wastewater treatment plant expansion project, we are in the project for only 2.5, I'm assuming you'll are going to want to go after the other half of that to finish the wastewater treatment plant expansion, I am working on that. Phase 6 the northeast septic to sewer you have coming, the grant agreement has not been completed by DEP, it is pending. I am starting early if you all want to do a phase 2 going down US Hwy 27.

**Eighner** states do you remember the gentleman who can in here about the tire shop, we have a lift station in Countryside Meadows that has about a dozen homes hooked to it, we also have a city easement that goes through Mr. Perrys cane field for just a short distance. We have spoken to Perry, and he would increase that easement to run sewer. I would like to see us extend from First Bank out to 78.

**Vanassche** states we have been applying for Countryside Medows for 46 septic to sewer units and last year I think it was for a little over \$2 million, is that still the same as this or would it be additional.

**Eighner** states that lift station would pick up those homes in Countryside Meadows and we Miller and Geratona talked about it, it would be an extension of Countryside Meadows. But we just talked about this at lunch.

**Ramunni** states on phase 1 we talked about the gaps within phase 1 that have not been finalized.

**Vanassche** states the \$1,250,000, will capture those gaps.

**ITEM 8: CITY MANAGER TO GIVE REPORT:**

**Tibbs** states the contractors are working in Lake Placed this week, they plan on being here next week to work on going under the river.

**ITEM 9: COUNTY MANAGER TO GIVE REPORT:**

NONE.

**ITEM 10: STEVE RAMUNNI TO GIVE REPORT:**

NONE.

**ITEM 11: CITIZENS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

**Blake** states I was coming to see what the status/ update was for Washington park because we have a lift station out there and maybe 4 tie ins, So I was wondering what the plan for is out there because we saw a lot of activity and then everything just stopped out there, then everything started on the other side of the canal. Washington park is considered County, and you have to make a decision on whether or not you all are going to apply for grant in Washington Park. I was looking over in Lee County and they got \$10 million to do 300 sewer hookups, it just seems like that is out of balance, I like to see numbers because I remember before it was about \$4.8 million just for Washington Park. I just want to know what the numbers are and the plans, because if we are getting overcharged, we may need to go see what Lee County is doing.

**Vanassche** states some of their funding is from hurricane Ian and that was states and federal.

**Eighner** states every year Vanassche takes a wish list from us. she has not taken our list yet, but she is telling us to get it ready. The lift station is the most expensive thing to put in once that is in, the price of hooking up the homes should fall. Washington Park is on our wish list because the lift station is there already. It does depend on how close the homes are together and how far the pipes have to be extended. We can only go as far as the money allows us to go, and then we can just keep applying and applying like we have been with Mrs. Vanassche.

**Stanly** states Washington park was on the list last year, but we did not get funded by the state, we are even looking at another CBDG if we have to.

**ITEM 12: APPROVAL OF THE BILLS SUBMITTED LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,616.92:**

**MOTION:** Stanley to approve the bills submitted list in the amount of \$56,616.92, seconded by Beck motion carried.

**ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** By Beck to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Taylor motion carried.

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**Ashley Wills, City Clerk**  
**Meeting adjourned at 5:49 P.M.**

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**Tony Whidden, Vice Chairman**

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM, IF ANYONE WISHES TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY, DIGITAL RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE.