

WATER COMMITTEE

July 22, 2020

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
Vanessa Tigert, Vice Chair
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Charles Oddo, Commissioner
Jimmy Preau
Frank Destadio
Bill Holland (by phone)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney
Jason Bodwell, CH2M/Jacobs (by phone)

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray, John Caldwell
Susan Lee, Natasha Duggan, Anita Godbee,
Casey Williamson
Carrie Gibby, Water Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

I. ADD ITEM TO AGENDA

Pete Frisina made the motion and Vanessa Tigert seconded to add an item to the agenda to discuss extending the Lake McIntosh Park hours for the viewing of the comet. The motion passed unanimously.

II. DISCUSSION TO EXTEND LAKE MCINTOSH PARK HOURS

Clair Cohen contacted Anita Godbee regarding this request. Ms. Cohen shared that Comet NEOWISE is currently visible for astrophotography from our location. It is not able to be seen by the naked eye due to light pollution. The comet was discovered March 27, 2020. The comet has made its loop around the sun and is on its way back out. It will be closet to Earth and at its brightest the evening of Thursday, July 23, 2020. You can see it best after sunset. Lake McIntosh Park closes too early to take photographs due the comet being distorted by the sunset. Ms. Cowen is requesting to extend the park closing hours.

Steve Rapson made the motion and Frank Destadio seconded to extend the closing hours of Lake McIntosh Park on Thursday, July 23, 2020 and Saturday, July 25, 2020 to 10:30p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 24, 2020 MEETING

Jimmy Preau made the motion and Frank Destadio seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 24, 2020. The motion passed unanimously

IV. APPROVAL OF WATERLINE EXTENSION POLICY

Ms. Tigert presented the proposed Waterline Extension Policy and the cost comparison of the current policy. The example is Kirkley Road and what it costs the Water System to install 880 feet of waterline opposed to fees collected by the new customer for that installation process. Dennis Davenport added the document was put together to generate discussion because the proposed policy is a substantial change from the current policy. Mr. Davenport refers to the second paragraph in which it lists the types of reasons why waterlines are extended. The first is it is initiated by Fayette County in which Fayette County pays all costs. The next reason is a request made by a developer of a subdivision. Followed by requests by property owners who desire access to the system; they want it but don't need it. Finally are requests from residents who, in an emergency situation, need it because they are out of water. Each request is handled differently.

Mr. Davenport provides an example and said when a developer requests it, we tell the developer where the developer hooks on, what size line the developer needs to put in and if Fayette County needs a bigger line for our purposes, we pay the incremental cost of the difference for the developer putting in the required line versus the bigger line. The developer shoulders all other costs and then turns the line over to the County.

Mr. Davenport continues by stating the biggest difference is the situation when you have someone who wants water. The property owner request water, the County determines where you should tie in, the County determines the size line needed, and same with the developer, if a bigger line is needed, the County will pay the incremental cost of the difference for the bigger line. He said the big difference is the person requesting the line pays all the costs which is substantially different than the current policy. Mr. Davenport said the reason the proposed policy is as written is because if someone already has water, they want us to bring our line to them and there is no reason for Fayette County to do that in our system or else we would have done it and they should pay the cost for us to bring the water to them. He went on to say if there are three neighbors that want water at the same time, they will split the cost four ways. The problem in the past is that if someone wanted the water, we would bill that person a prorated amount based upon frontage and would keep that account open for that person to get reimbursed over the course of years as other people tied on. That is just an unworkable situation. Mr. Davenport explained the downside to this for the property owner is that you will probably not get many request because it will be too expensive.

Mr. Davenport went on to explain the situation in which the person no longer has water because they were on a well, etc. This is an emergency situation. He said there is a difference between the people wanting water and the people needing water. The person wanting water can be scheduled in over the course of the calendar year however, the person needing water is an emergency situation in which there is a cost to marshalling your resources to make those changes to provide water. It is listed as 125% of the associated cost of the project in the proposed policy draft as a proposal of the methodology.

Discussion continues regarding the property owner paying full cost to extend the waterline to their house with no neighbors wanting to hook on at that time. Frank Destadio asks what the neighbor pays after the fact when they decide to tie on to the waterline that is now available. Steve Rapson explained that the neighbor would only pay the tap fee and no reimbursement is provided to the property owner who paid to extend the line originally.

Frank Destadio states the upcharge of 25% of the associated cost in an emergency situation is too high. He recommends we update the policy to not list a specific upcharge percentage and we charge the associated cost. Ms. Tigert recommends we update the wording to include the property owner shoulders all costs associated with installation of the waterline.

Vanessa Tigert made the motion and Steve Rapson seconded to provide recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to approve the Waterline Extension policy with the understanding that Dennis Davenport will update the wording to include property owners are responsible for all direct and indirect cost associated with the waterline extension. The motion passed unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION OF INSTALLATION STANDARDS

Ms. Tigert began by stating she would like to table this discussion as she has received Mr. Destadio's comments and would like to review the comments and discuss these with John Caldwell and Dennis Davenport. Ms. Tigert would like to address all comments and bring the Installation Standards back to the Committee.

Vanessa Tigert made the motion to table this item until the meeting on August 26, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. WATER FACILITIES UPDATE

Russell Ray stated the Lake Horton Water Selector is moving forward. IXOM is monitoring the unit over the next few days and if all looks good, startup will occur soon and the middle gate will be opened. IT is assisting with establishing communication at the South Fayette Plant to the unit. Mr. Ray mentioned we have been working on replacing the variable frequency drives of the raw water pumps at the Crosstown Plant holding pond. The drives have been installed and the pump is now operational.

Ms. Tigert shared the department submitted applications to renew the Surface Water Withdrawal Permits which expire every 10 years. The five permits being renewed are Lake Kedron, Lake Peachtree, Lake Horton, Lake McIntosh and Flint River. Whitewater Creek is not a permit that is being renewed. This permit was removed from the Permit to Operate three years ago. A meeting is scheduled to review the applications with EPD on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

Jason Bodwell updated the Committee that a memo has been provided to staff regarding the Crosstown Yard Piping project which analyzes the ability to take the intake from Lake Peachtree to the head of the plant and move it to the outside lagoon.

Jason states they are analyzing the options for the ability to flow water from Crosstown to South Fayette. He said the South Fayette Chlorine Dioxide project is going well and is on track for completion the end of October.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Mr. Davenport would like to provide more information regarding the visitor, Mr. Bowen, from the previous meeting. Mr. Bowen referenced property on Grant Road conveyed to the County. Mr. Davenport found a Deed from June 3, 1993 and determined the 15.1 acres referenced was purchased by the County as a component of the lake and is wetland mitigation for the construction of Lake Horton. Jimmy Preau commented that he would like the Committee to contact Mr. Bowen to share these facts that are now available. Mr. Rapson said if we can reach out to him, we will.

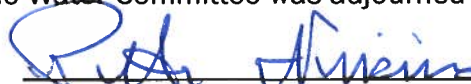
Ms. Tigert was contacted by a customer asking if we are testing our water for the Coronavirus. Susan Lee has worked on a response that, when approved, will be posted on the County website. We are following all CDC's guidance as it relates to COVID-19.

ADJOURNMENT

Frank Destadio made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee July 22, 2020 meeting. Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Water Committee meeting will be August 26, 2020.

There being no further business the Water Committee was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.


Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 23 day of September, 2020.

Carrie Gibby

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: September 9, 2020