



Sammy Rich, *City Manager*
Patrick Eidson, *Assistant City Manager*
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
W. Kirk Milam, P.E., *Manager*
Water and Sewer Division
Mike Hackett, *Director*
Tim Brunson, *Asst. Director*
John Boyd, *Asst. Director*
Water Treatment Facility
Wayne Stanley, *Director*
Water Reclamation Facilities
Johnny C. Massingill, *Director*
Water Billing Department
Cathy Sims, *Director*

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING
City Hall, 601 Broad Street, Sam King Room
Thursday April 6, 2017
8:30 AM

PRESENT: Commissioner Craig McDaniel, Chairperson
Commissioner Sue Lee
Commissioner Milton Slack
Commissioner Sundai Stevenson
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Kirk Milam, P.E., Public Services Manager
Mr. Mike Hackett, Water & Sewer Division Director
Mr. Tim Brunson, Assistant Division Director
Mr. John Boyd, Assistant Division Director
Mr. Wayne Stanley, Water Treatment Facility Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Mr. Jeff Pope, WTF Supervisor
Ms. Cathy Sims, Water Billing Director

VISITORS: Diane Wagner, Rome News Tribune

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson McDaniel welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Chairperson McDaniel stated everyone had read the minutes of the January 5, 2017 meeting and unless there were questions, the minutes would stand approved as submitted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sheree Shore presented the financial report. Mrs. Shore stated water sales are up over last year which is expected with a rate increase, but revenue increase is more than expected for this alone.

Usage is also up and revenues show an 8% uptake over last year. Connection fees are down somewhat, but had a tremendous January and February last year for connection fees. Expenses are up as expected with raises and increased premiums. Staff has done more the past few months than this time last year. Total expenses and transfers out are up 4% over last year. Payments on the tank maintenance contract, the Etowah pump and the beginning of the GAC. Debt service coverage is up with less in debt and revenue up. Operating reserve was adjusted to three months and at end of February shows a cash balance of \$12,209,594 with \$2,427,937 shown as undesignated.

OLD BUSINESS

John Boyd presented a power point presentation on the Water Quality and Supply Assurance Plan update regarding PFCs with data on the PFOS and PFOA filter bed trials. PFOSs and PFOAs are chemical residues resulting from water-proofing technology which has been phased out. We still see the remnants in water and the air. The City of Rome has eight filter beds, three of which were used for the trial. The City of Rome is below the health advisory limit but we saw the need to be pro-active. Filter bed 1 was coal based by Calgon; filter bed 2 was coal based by Jacobi; filter bed 3 was coconut based formulation ; filter bed 4 was the control or the current method used and filter bed 5 was the combined through the plant. This is the last step in our water treatment process before the water is introduced into our system. Mr. Boyd showed slides of a typical filter bed when calm and another slide of the backwash in progress where the water and air scour is agitated with reverse flow. Backwashing frees up space before the beds are brought back on line. . A typical filter bed processes two million gallons per day.

Slides showed the media removal and preparation for the test filters. A large device operating similar to a wet vacuum removes the media and loads it in super sacks.. During the media removal, 18 inches of existing anthracite or coal is removed along with 6 inches of sand and leaving another 6 inches of sand. After the media removal, the beds must be disinfected with chlorine before new media can be added. The new media installation is the reverse procedure of the removal. The super sacks contain 1000 lbs. each of media and require 28 sacks per bed. A slide of the GAC Break-T Log for the Etowah showed the detection amounts for PFOAs and PFOSs. At present, this monitoring is considered under health advisory status and not regulation. Kirk Milam stated the philosophy of EPA and chemical components monitoring gives organizations time to phase out the use of chemicals in processing. It could take years for the trials to be complete before strict regulation is put in place. The new limit is a combined measurement of 70 parts per trillion and sites pregnant and lactating women most at risk.

The cost for Filters 1 and 2 which are coal based is about \$62,000 per filter as opposed to the coconut based formulation which is \$32,000 per filter. Original price by Calgon for the coal based filters is approximately \$61,334.00 per filter, but would be discounted for all beds. The coal based from Jacobi price is \$49,905.88 and the coconut based formulation from Jacobi is \$32,359.76. One positive for the coconut based is a longer filter run. We want the best quality of water for our customers, but we still must consider the long term cost.

The second part of the presentation was the Etowah intake. Old pumps have been rebuilt. Two

new raw water pumps have been bought for the Etowah intake; a Flygt which cost about \$72,000 and a Homa at \$67,000. Now we have spares and redundancy since we are dealing with the PFOSs and the PFOAs and possibly low water levels during the summer months. Mr. Hackett stated we have done a lot of work there since we didn't go through with the vertical turbine project. We've got new pumps and old pumps rebuilt and now we have spares. We went through the process of setting it up so we can by-pass a pump with a portable diesel driven pump, which we did do. If required, we can have that set up and running in a day if we lost a pump. The two new pumps are submersible pumps and we should expect five to ten years before looking at renewal. Capacity is up now to four million per day as opposed to two million gallons per day. Each pump weighs about 6,000 pounds each and took a 90-ton crane to set in place.

Water Stewardship was discussed next, even though it is listed under new business. A replacement of a 6 inch meter has been installed for the process of backwashing and chemical makeup, cost \$7,000. We saw about 90,000 gallons per day correction. Also a Mag meter was installed on the 30-inch water line coming off the four million gallon tank. This relates to our unaccounted for water or non-revenue water. Now the system is all on Scada and we saw a 400,000 gallons per day correction once it was on-line. Based on the old meter, the 24" Venturi meter, the unaccounted for water was 24%. We expect now to see that drop to 17% or 18%. The 30 inch Mag meter cost was \$15,000.

Tim Brunson gave an update on the new water main replacement on Broad St. At 10:00 AM today crews will be cutting the water off for about forty-minutes to do the tie-in to City Hall to the new line. Last year staff purchased a new chain saw that runs off air, with diamond cutters. This new saw is very efficient for cutting pipe and in half the time as the old saws. Next step is to go up Broad, around the curve and be working on Riverside Parkway. Crews will tie-in at the red light area and that will complete the loop for the new water line. Then crews will start moving down the side streets and disconnecting from the existing 16 inch water main. The project, should be finished during the month of July and that crew will immediately move to the Mt. Alto area to start replacing some water mains there that are plastic.

Tim Brunson discussed the improvements in the Water Billing Department. The hallway and lobby was very closed in and not friendly for customers. The hallway was too narrow for customers and general traffic using the hallway. The glass across the front counter was replaced to make the area more open. Staff has added two televisions in the lobby and plan in the future to roll announcements, etc. for the City on the televisions. Chairman McDaniel asked about the number of parking spaces. Employees were designated parking spaces towards the end of the back parking lot. This opened up thirteen parking spaces nearer the door for customers and visitors.

Commissioner Slack asked if there was anything to help the congestion on Broad St. and the parking lot. Suggestion was made to look at moving the Water Billing Office and possibly consolidating certain offices for all water and sewer questions and transactions. Chairman McDaniel asked what percentage of customers pay their bill on line. Cathy Sims replied about 10% on bank draft and 50 to 75 per day on line. Chairman McDaniel suggested we think about possibility of relocating, not only to relieve congestion but to make it safer for customers.

Tim Brunson stated we will be showing a customer service training video to all departments of

the water and sewer division. Everyone was invited to go down to the billing office area to look around. Staff will be going to the Munis all in one payment collection system this year. A fourth bay was created for handicap access as well as talking privately with customers. Mr. Brunson stated with the all-in-one system, we will be able to process a check and give the check back to the customer. Mr. Brunson stated this will improve efficiency and make the office more secure.

Chairman McDaniel asked how the deposit was made each day. Cathy Sims replied we get one big deposit together and it is kept in the safe until Finance picks it up approximately 3:00 PM. each day. Each cashier's deposit is verified and checked before added to the bank deposit. Mail done through Remit is transmitted directly to the bank, no deposit necessary. Bank drafts are handled directly with the bank also. There will be cash in the drawers from customer payments and in the safe until picked up.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Milam stated we are due for a rate study this year as it is a bi-annual process. Staff will be working with Bill Zieburtz and Burton & Associates again. The current agreement with Burton and Associates secures cost for this year and possibly future years. The base model was done last year and actually carried over into 2016. Staff will not be making a lot of changes; staff will populate the model before we bring it to this committee. Chairman McDaniel asked if this was a standard practice to do a rate study every two years. Mrs. Shore replied it is required by the Bond coverage. Mr. Milam stated it is written in our Code, really because of the wastewater side of things.

PROJECTS UPDATE:

None

OTHER

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully resubmitted

Mike Hackett, Director
Rome Water and Sewer Division