

Strategic Planning Workshop



Mayor Spooner called the Planning Session to order, present were Commissioner Travis Woods, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Danny Nugent, City Clerk Ricky Thompson, County Commissioner Ross Chandler, Greg Lang and Tim Norman, Mittauer Associates, Kendra Robertson, USDA Rural Development, Will Sexton, Bradford County Attorney, Paul Sanders City Attorney, Kyle Jerrels City WWTP Supervisor.

Mayor Spooner welcomed the community partners and thanked them for attending. She highlighted the session held on September 23 and stated they left off on Page 5.

Clerk Thompson began there is one area, South Gate, that we are planning installing two fire hydrants this year and that will cover the subdivision. Commissioner Nugent added there are a couple that are in need of repair, which are being taken care of.

Mayor Spooner stated the next item on the project list is the Drug Trafficking. Chief Johnson is not present but that is something that needs working on.

The employee training, and cross training; Clerk Thompson stated that is ongoing in his office as well as in the utilities. We are short staffed so everyone has to do other jobs as needed.

Commissioner Chastain suggested with the county present would it be wise to discuss fire hydrants for the County Club area? The city's last one is located at the end of Bessent Road, and when that was designed it was done for future development.

Mr. Chandler added he felt that the County would be open to discuss this at a later time.

The next item is reduction of electric rates. The City has worked on that over the few years. Mayor Spooner suggested exploring more use of solar power.

Clerk Thompson added the City receives an allowance from FMPA each year for energy conservation. We are looking at some solar lighting at the Downtown Square and Edwards Road Ballfield.

Mayor Spooner suggested looking at the street lights.

Commissioner Nugent added it was discussed before about doing it at Edwards

Road Ballfields to see how it would work out. Then move forward to different areas.

Clerk Thompson added some companies have approached the city about converting some of the lighting inside the buildings to the LED that is energy efficient. They also have a financing program that would pay itself off in about 5 years.

Mr. Norman added Mittauer is unaware of any grants out there now but Ms. Robertson maybe able to address something when she speaks.

The next item is the tie in at the substation. Clerk Thompson added we are looking for another tie in source besides FPL, but we haven't reached that area yet. He is hoping it can be achieved within 5 years.

Meter Change out program. Clerk Thompson added we have an aggressive meter change out program now. As far as the demand metering we have not got into that as of yet, and it requires a different rates for commercial and industrial users.

Mayor Spooner asked if it needs to remain on the project list and make it something to strive for or delete it from the list.

Commissioner Chastain stated the customers would no doubt like for it to be deleted.

Commissioner Woods ask if there would be a cheaper meter for customers to use for watering lawns, washing cars, etc.

Clerk Thompson responded our water meters are responsibility cheap. They are around \$38.00 for residential. We have quite a few residential customers that already participate in the irrigation meter program that eliminates the cost of sewer. For typical residential cost, when the meter is installed it is around \$800. If you do a lot of grass watering you could save quite a bit of money. It will pay back in 1 or 2 years easily. The payback will be even quicker since we have gone up a third.

Mr. Lang suggested; typically what communities will do is cap the sewer at 10,000 gallons a month. Any water usage over that is irrigation.

The staggered meter reading and billing. Clerk Thompson responded it seems we are collecting a little better than in the past. He felt this could be placed on hold or remove it.

Mayor Spooner asked if there are any objections to deleting this item.

Clerk Thompson stated we have two meter readers and it would be a job to have them staggered.

Budget billing; Clerk Thompson responded this is like average billing. You get history of what the customer uses for a year and average it out and that is what they would pay monthly and it would be trued up at the end of the year.

We are doing that now with the smoothing with the rate stabilization fund. It would be fine to delete that item.

Traffic signal bulbs; Clerk Thompson responded we have changed some as the state supplies them. They provide the bulbs and fixtures free, but all are not

changed yet. This would be on going.

Control Water, New well locations; we had been experiencing some issues at the South West well. We have replaced or rebuilt the motors on each of the wells. This item can be removed, there is plenty of capacity and all wells are on line.

Sewer Rehab; this has been completed.

Master Sewer Maps; this has been supplied by our last engineer at least 2 years ago.

Sewer Plant Employees can be removed.

Marketing Gas Customers; customers outside the city limits.

Financially Sound, Encourage new business development, pursuing grant opportunities, improve infrastructure;

Ms. Robertson provided a hand out of USDA Rural Development information (attached).

What type of grants that are obtainable through the USDA; She has reviewed the numbers for the city and from what she has seen the city would qualify.

She has only reviewed the city's information not reviewed the entire county so it would depend where the project would be and how the number are, but the county is also eligible to apply for grants as well.

Mittauer gave information on with the needs for infrastructure and updates with the waste water plant, discharge to the creek. They will bring information back to the city commission relating to grants and funding opportunities.

They discussed the loss of acres at the sprayfield with the truck route coming.

Mayor Spooner reviewed the remaining project list. The list is attached to the minutes with the updates. It includes the items referenced in the city's state audit report.

Mayor Spooner asked if anything additional needed to come before the workshop. Hearing none she closed the workshop.

Carolyn B. Spooner, Mayor
Commissioner Tommy Chastain
Commissioner Daniel Nugent
Commissioner Wilbur L. Waters
Commissioner Travis V. Woods

Attest: _____
Ricky Thompson, City Clerk