

# AGENDA

## Newport News City Council Work Session

February 9, 2010

*10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
City Hall*

- 3:30 p.m. I. Community Maintenance
- 3:45 p.m. II. DEQ Consent Order Briefing
- 4:15 p.m. III. Lee Hall Dam Improvements Project
- 4:30 p.m. IV. Comments/Ideas/Suggestions
- 5:00 p.m. V. Closed Meeting
- Legal
  - Personnel
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner

## ITEM I

- **Community Maintenance**

# CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 3, 2010

**TO:** The Honorable City Council  
**FROM:** Acting City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Community Maintenance

As I have previously indicated to City Council, one of the areas that I think we need to have added focus is on Community Maintenance. While we have made some progress over the years, there is still much to be accomplished in our neighborhoods and the City as a whole. I have asked Assistant City Manager, Cindy Rohlf to coordinate this effort. Over the last few months, she has met with a core group of staff representatives from various Departments including Codes Compliance, Public Works, City Farm, Police, Fire, Parks, Recreation & Tourism, Human Resources and the City Attorney's Office. My direction to staff was that our approach should be collaborative, action-oriented and City-wide. The goal is to develop and implement initiatives over the short, intermediate and longer-term to work toward improving the overall appearance of our City, whether it is our gateways to the City, within the neighborhoods or our business community. Even with our current budgetary constraints, I think there are some initiatives that we can begin to plan for and carry out within our existing resources.

At your January 12, 2010, Work Session, Cindy will provide Council with a progress report including a brief overview of some of the initiatives that are currently under consideration, as well as a timeline for bringing these items back to Council for your information and further consideration.



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Neil A. Morgan

NAM:CDR:mr

G:NAM\CommunityMaintenance 2-3-10

## ITEM II

- DEQ Consent Order Briefing

# CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 3, 2010

**TO:** The Honorable City Council  
**FROM:** Acting City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Sanitary Sewer Special Order by Consent

The February 9, 2009 Work Session agenda includes a presentation by Reed Fowler, Director of Public Works and Everett Skipper, Director of Engineering related to the Sanitary Sewer Special Order by Consent (the "Consent Order"). The Consent Order was executed between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), thirteen regional localities including Newport News, and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) for the purpose of mitigating on-going regional sanitary sewer overflows. It requires us to determine the condition of our sanitary sewerage system in order to identify and promptly repair defects that may immediately threaten public health, and to identify and repair, over a not yet defined longer period, any other defects found in the system. These later projects will be prioritized in a Sewer Rehabilitation Plan to be approved by the DEQ. The Consent Order also requires each municipality and HRSD to develop a model of their respective sewage systems. These models will be used to simulate various storm events and a regional level of service will be defined which will be the basis for a comprehensive Wet Weather Management Plan (WWMP).


In 2008 we implemented a \$0.45/HCF surcharge as part of the sanitary sewer rates to begin implementing requirements of the consent order. In 2009 we were required to increase the surcharge by an additional \$0.45, resulting in a total rate of \$2.53/HCF. These increases funded the initial structure of our compliance plan for the Consent Order, the field flow monitoring completed in 2008, the Flow Monitoring Report and Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) Plan reports that accompanied that work, and the initial phases of the SSES field work. The cost of the initial efforts was in the range of \$5 million, and the SSES fieldwork now ongoing

The Honorable City Council  
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Sanitary Sewer Special Order by Consent  
February 3, 2010

through November of 2011 is projected to cost in the range of \$10 million, plus an additional \$8 million in "Find & Fix" efforts to promptly correct certain deficiencies. Other deficiencies and system enhancement will be repaired under the Sewer Rehabilitation and Wet Weather Management Plans.

Future construction projects required by the Consent Order are expected to range approximately 20 times the cost of the studies in each jurisdiction, or in our case up to \$200 million over a period to be negotiated with DEQ. Because we are in the early stages of the field work, we cannot yet refine the long-term construction estimate. Accordingly, for the upcoming fiscal year, staff is recommending no change in the fee structure for the wastewater fund.

In light of the scale of this undertaking , as well as time continued and uncertain expense of this program, Reed and Everett will provide an update for you of the overall program and the budget projections, as we currently understand them.

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Neil A. Morgan

NAM:mr

Attachment

cc: Director of Engineering

G:\NAM\SanitarySewerSpecialOrderByConsent 2-3-10

## **ITEM III**

- **Lee Hall Dam Improvements Project**

# **CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS**

## **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

February 3, 2010

**TO:** The Honorable City Council

**FROM:** Acting City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Lee Hall Dam Improvements Project -Appropriation of Funds and Authorization to Execute Agreement

Waterworks requests that City Council appropriate funds in the amount of \$825,000 for professional engineering and other professional services related to permitting for the Phase I design of the Lee Hall Dam Improvements Project.

The Lee Hall Reservoir system consists of two separate, interconnected impoundments known by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Dam Safety Division (DCR) as Lee Hall Upper Dam Outlets Works and the Lee Hall Lower Dam. The impoundments are separated by a 600-foot-long CSX railroad embankment. The Upper Dam Outlet Works consists of a concrete and steel sheeting weir structure with level control gates and is attached to the upstream side of the railroad embankment. The outlet works has been owned and operated by Waterworks for over 65 years through an agreement with CSX. No major improvements have been performed on this structure over its service life.

The Lee Hall Lower Dam is a 3,500-foot-long earthen dam which has been in operation for over 115 years. This dam creates the lower reservoir which serves as the terminal reservoir from which the Lee Hall water treatment plant withdraws raw water for the water treatment process. Waterworks recently completed a seepage repair project in the vicinity of the auxiliary spillway of the Lower Dam.

Both the dam and embankment are regulated by DCR. They are currently not in full compliance with the revised DCR regulations adopted in September 2008, due to inadequate spillway capacities and stability concerns at the CSX embankment. Over the past several years, Waterworks has been working with DCR and CSX to resolve ownership and regulatory issues and have recently agreed to a plan for moving forward to full compliance with the regulations. DCR will be granting extensions to our Operation and Maintenance Certificates based on making progress on the completion of steps outlined in the modification process.

The Honorable City Council

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Lee Hall Dam Improvements Project - Appropriation and Authorization to  
Execute Agreement  
February 3, 2010


Waterworks recently completed a study of alternatives with the assistance of our dam engineering consultant. Following this study, a Request for Proposals was issued, interviews conducted by the Public Utilities Professional Services Selection Committee, and Waterworks is currently completing negotiations with the top-ranked firm for the design services to be partially (Phase I) funded by this appropriation. Because of the schedule constraints imposed by DCR, it is necessary for this appropriation and contract authorization to proceed as quickly as possible. Therefore, I am requesting authorization to execute this agreement once it is finalized.

As you know, Waterworks recently completed a project to address a seepage problem that had developed at the Lower Dam. Due to the age of the structure and the recent seepage problem encountered, it is prudent to review the stability of the existing structure and extend its useful life well into the future. Nearly 70% of the water delivered to Waterworks' customers passes through the Lee Hall Reservoir system; hence it is a critical asset to maintain.

This dam-safety focused construction project has been identified in Waterworks' CIP. Future appropriations will be required to complete design and construction of this project. When all work is complete, both the lower dam and the upper embankment should be in full compliance with dam safety regulations and issues concerning ownership responsibilities between CSX and the City resolved.

It is estimated that \$825,000 will be required to complete this Phase I study and preliminary design with the typical 10% contingency.

It is recommended that City Council approve an appropriation of funds in the amount of \$825,000 for professional services, and other professional services for Phase I design of the Lee Hall Dam Improvements Project and authorize me to execute agreement when finalized.



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Neil A. Morgan

NAM:ww

cc: Brian L. Ramaley, P.E., Director of Public Utilities

## ITEM IV

- **Comments/Ideas/Suggestions**

**MOTION FOR USE AT THE BEGINNING OF A WORK SESSION ITEM  
"COUNCIL IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS/CONCERNS"**

**"Pursuant to Section 4.06 of the City Charter and Section 2-22 of the Newport News City Code, the notice of this meeting, which was timely provided to each member of the Council, was required to contain the specific item or items of business to be transacted during this portion of the meeting. I move that the Council by unanimous consent waive the requirement."**

## ITEM V

- **Closed Meeting**

- **CLOSED MEETING**

- **Legal**
- **Personnel**