

**OCTOBER 13, 2017  
CITY OF SENOIA  
BUDGET WORKSESSION  
140 PYLANT STREET  
8:00 AM**

**VISITORS:** Sarah Campbell, Randy Padgett and James McCue

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Owens, Graham, Eichorst and Fisher

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** Grover

**1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME VISITORS**

Mayor Owens welcomed all then declared this to be an open meeting duly convened under the Open Meetings Law after receiving confirmation from the City Clerk that all legal requirements have been met.

**2. FY 2018 BUDGET WORKSESSION WITH MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**A. City Manager and Department Heads present proposed 2018 Budget-All funds**

Councilman Eichorst has been asked if the solid waste collection is "all inclusive" whereas if a resident decides to not recycle is there a decrease in the monthly cost & was told no. Staff numbers were reviewed with Police being fully staffed, Public Works is down 1 employee and with Bob Werner retiring in January 2018, James McCue has been moved to replace as the City's Code Enforcement Officer. City Manager Harold Simmons informed all that there have been no merit increases included in the proposed, only a 3% cost of living across the board in all departments (PD has a promotional increase covered under salary for McCue's replacement). Mr. Simmons then reviewed the highlights for each fund, pointing out that signage has been increased \$12,000 in anticipation of new gateway signage and was asked by C. Fisher if we have received approval from GDOT for placement. Mr. Simmons stated that the City is currently waiting on word from the DDA which C. Fisher will check on later today. Mr. Simmons then stated that group insurance, liability insurance and salaries are the top focus for 2018. Public Works Director Randy Padgett began by informing all that most has remained the same in Street, Water and Sewer with the exception that a request is being made for a new rubber tractor with the cost being split between the three funds. \$150,000 for road repair was asked for in the 2017 budget, with \$58,000 remaining and asked Council for their preference of streets. Mayor Owens would like to see repairs to Stallings Road. Randy informed Council that erosion is occurring at the manhole located at the corner of Stallings and needs repaired. C. Fisher asked for the proper way to fix it and was told that it will have to be dug up to fix, adding that if left alone the road will start caving. Mr. Padgett estimates the fix in house will cost \$10,000. The road will have to be closed and after the manhole is fixed, the repairs to Stallings Road can take place. While the road is closed, vehicular traffic can be detoured thru Drake Street. Finding time to fix the manhole appears to be an issue and C. Eichorst asked Randy to seek bids from outside contractors. Randy stated that the sewer pumps are also aging, adding that two were pulled the day before and sent for repair and would like to have an extra pump

on hand for situations such as this. The cost for an extra pump would be approximately \$15,000. The pond behind Andrews Parkway was discussed as it has a "sludge blanket" and we need to schedule someone to come out. Georgia Rural Water can take care of the work and the estimated cost will be \$100,000. SPLOST may be able to be used as this should be considered an emergency situation. C. Fisher stated that we haven't even spoken about the possibilities that SPLOST doesn't pass. Randy indicated that next year when planning the budget for 2019, he will be seeking additional personnel for stormwater and all in that fund will fall under Randy's department, adding that there are two others set to retire in the coming year's. Regarding the attention of the recent sewer overflow on Coweta Street, Randy stated that he's been here for 14 years and he only knows of two overflows at that area; one from heavy rains and the other during Hurricane Irma. It was mentioned that everything north of CSX flows to Coweta Street and additional products have been introduced at this location to combat any smell. Randy stated that in all his time with the City he has never before had complaints regarding smell. C. Fisher asked what can be done to avoid future power outages and was told to have a portable generator on hand (\$60,000) however there are 16 lift stations and if they all go out as did with Hurricane Irma, one will not solve the problem. One possible solution would be to get GBT involved to place a redundancy line but with public sewer comes the possibility of smell. Mr. Simmons informed all that the widening on Seavy Street might "be on us" and it was suggested by Randy if so, to do in conjunction with the development. Randy also added to the list of work needed is from Bridge to Middle Street. C. Fisher asked about the problem at Morgan Street and was told in mid-2000 when Robert Hannah was Mayor Randy was instructed to put a "straw" under the bridge on Hwy. 16 back to Main Street and after installation the complaints went away. The resident(s) have stated that the situation has been going on for 20 years but until recently, we have not received complaints. Randy stated that through testing, the water is good. The City is required by EPD to have a corrective action plan/flushing program which we do and cannot "let a few residents tell us how to do our job". C. Eichorst asked if the City has gotten back with the resident(s) and informed them that the City is required to flush & was told yes. James McCue reviewed the budget for Code Enforcement adding that he will continue to hold his POST certification and has requested a computer for the CE truck which will enable him to access the department's GCIC system. C. Fisher stated that moving James to the position of Code Enforcement Officer after Bob's retirement is an "excellent move". Mr. Simmons added that the new website should be up and running October 1<sup>st</sup> the Pylant Street and Hwy. 16 project continues and that the City needs to address the dredging of Hutchins Lake in the very near future if possible. C. Eichorst asked about software to electronically handle purchase orders and work orders & was told by Debby that although we currently do not input the two electronically, our software does have modules that can be purchased to accomplish both.

**3. ADJOURN**

Mayor Owens made motion to adjourn the October 13, 2017 Council Worksession & was 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Fisher. Motion carried unanimously.