

MINUTES
March 20, 2018
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL – SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Barbara G. Volk, Mayor Pro Tem Ron Stephens and Council Members: Jeff Miller, Jerry Smith, and Steve Caraker

Staff Present: City Manager John F. Connet, City Clerk Tammie Drake, Budget and Management Analyst Adam Murr, Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle, City Engineer Brent Detwiler

1. Call to Order: Mayor Volk called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. A quorum was established with five members in attendance.

2. Review and consideration of bids for the Buncombe Street Stormwater Project: Mr. Connet reported no bids were received and **no action was necessary.**

3. Discussion Regarding Sewer Service to Henderson County Public Schools: In response to a statement made by Henderson County Commissioner Lapsley that the City is not willing to assist in providing sewer to Edneyville Elementary School, Mr. Connet discussed a statement to make the City's intentions clear to the Board of Commissioners and the public that the City is willing to work with, and partner with, Henderson County to provide sewer service to the school. He also introduced the suggestion of reducing the sewer rates for all schools to the inside-City rate.

Council Member Miller reported a meeting with Commissioner Lapsley. He stated they both agreed all were elected to resolve the issue for the benefit of the whole. He stated he made it clear that the City will help with sewer to Edneyville but the County may have other plans.

Council Member Miller recommended assisting with the sewer rates for all schools in the county with inside-rates. He stated it would be a great gesture on City's part to help the schools and show good faith. He stated he wants to continue working toward a system, long-term, that will be fair to everyone on the water and sewer system. He stated it is extremely fair now and the City is doing a good job. Council Member Caraker stated he is hopeful for reciprocal gestures. He does not have a problem with lowering the sewer rates for the schools. Mr. Connet stated all the schools are on the lowest industrial rates for water. Council Member Smith stated the schools can use these savings to enhance security and the City is doing their part to assist the schools.

Council Member Miller stated Commissioner Lapsley will propose a solution for sewer in Edneyville. There was discussion of the length of time required to install the line and the desire of the Edneyville community regarding growth issues.

Mayor Volk commented the City has offered to work with the County on sewer for Edneyville. She also voiced support for changing the sewer rates for the public schools. **No action was taken.**

4. Closed Session:

At 4:22 p.m., Council Member Caraker moved Council to enter a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) and (5) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses served by the public body and to establish or instruct the City's negotiating agent concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the City Council in negotiating the price and other material items of a contract for the acquisition of real property by the purchase, option, exchange, or lease. A unanimous vote of the Council followed. Motion carried.

The Council directed staff on negotiating the purchase of real property.

The Council exited the closed session at 4:59 p.m. No action was taken.

5. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. upon unanimous assent of the Council.

Barbara G. Volk, Mayor

Tammie K. Drake, City Clerk