

# AGENDA

CITY OF ARCHER  
16870 SW 134<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 39  
ARCHER, FL 32618-0039

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 p.m.

ARCHER COMMUNITY  
CENTER

*All persons wishing to participate and speak on an issue at the public meeting have the right, through the Chair, to ask questions of staff or other speakers, to seek clarification of comments made by staff or other speakers, and to respond to the comments or presentations of staff or other speakers.*

*All persons who present written materials to Commissioners for consideration must ensure that a copy of those materials is provided to the Clerk for inclusion in the record of proceedings and official minutes.*

*All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at this public hearing or meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

*All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard.*

## CALL TO ORDER

### I. Consent Agenda

- A. Approve minutes from meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### II. New Business

- A. Ms. Debby Preble-Updated PER

### III. Citizen Comments

### IV. Committee Comments

### V. Motion to Adjourn

**CITY OF ARCHER**  
16870 SW 134<sup>th</sup> AVE  
Archer, Florida 32618-0039  
Phone: 352-495-2880 Fax: 352-495-2445

**CITY OF ARCHER SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 18, 2016 Time: 5:00 PM**

MINUTES, WHICH ARE PUBLIC RECORD, ARE NOTES TAKEN TO PROVIDE A SUMMARY MEMORANDUM OF MEETINGS OR HEARINGS AND CONTAIN ALL OFFICIAL ACTIONS TAKEN. MINUTES ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE A WORD FOR WORD OR VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MEETING.

**LEADING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice Mayor Susan Drawdy  
**SEWER COMMITTEE:** Vice Mayor Susan Drawdy, Chair, non-voting position.  
Bob Kasicki, Co-Chair  
Harriett Davis  
Melvin Lauderdale  
Frank Lopez  
Laurie Costello  
Sara Brannon  
Sue Batey, Ad hoc, non-voting position

**ABSENT:** Amelia Davis  
Dan Beck

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Debra Preble, P.E, Vice President, Preble-Rish, Inc.

**STAFF:** City Manager, Zeria K. Folston  
Minutes Recorder, Mary T. Flickinger

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes from the February 16, 2015, Sewer Committee Meeting**

**MOTION**

Committee Member Lauderdale moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2015, Sewer Committee Meeting.

Committee Member Kasicki seconded the motion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MOTION CARRIED:** 5-0 (Absent: Committee Member Brannon).

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

City Manager Folston stated that the meeting tonight is about providing clarity to the community regarding the wastewater project. The plan is to discuss the Preliminary Engineering Report, Work Plan, Task Order, and the documentation provided to the DEP. City Manager Folston stated that he hoped the meeting will answer as many questions as possible and give everyone a chance to have their voice heard. If a citizen requires a more in-depth discussion, the city will schedule a meeting to go over those questions.

**A. Ms. Debra Preble, Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) updates and discussion.**

Ms. Preble stated that her first involvement with the City was to help find funding for the Baskerville-Donovan project. Ms. Preble obtained \$350,000.00, but the project was determined to be un-fundable and the money was returned to the Water Management District. Ms. Preble stated that sometime after the city purchased the land, she was hired to begin working on the new wastewater project.

Ms. Preble obtained a SEARCH Grant to fund the preliminary work needed to win the support of the funding agencies. The City approved a task order for \$60,000 to prepare the PER, which consisted of \$30,000 from the \$750,000.00 Legislative Appropriation and \$30,000.00 from the SEARCH Grant. The report was submitted to DEP and USDA and has been discussed in Sewer Committee meetings.

Ms. Preble stated that she is aware that the Sewer Committee does not want the grinder pump system, but DEP has strict guidelines for the creation of reports. In order to recommend something that is not dollars and cents wise, we must have justification, which we did not have at that time. Ms. Preble stated that it was her intent to submit the report and then work with DEP.

In recent meetings with DEP and USDA, it was explained that the City wanted a gravity system. DEP and USDA offered specific recommendations that could be incorporated into the revised report to help to justify the gravity system. The combined comments from USDA, DEP and the Sewer Committee, will be used to create a revised report for review. When the City has the final PER, funding packages will be obtained from the agencies. At that point, the city will see what the agencies are willing to fund to determine if the project can be accomplished.

The Preliminary Engineering Report for the City of Archer Wastewater Improvement Project was shown on the overhead screen. Ms. Preble asked the Committee if they would like to go through the report and exhibits page-by-page or touch on the highlights. The Committee decided to touch on the main highlights, as follows:

There were no questions on Section I: Project Planning and Section 2: Existing Facilities.

Section 3: Need for Project: Ms. Preble first discussed the answer to a question presented by Mr. Hobby at the last meeting concerning nitrates. Continuing, Ms. Preble referred to the Archer Health Department Report showing over 300 septic tanks were permitted and operating. On further analysis, statistics show that there are possibly over 400 septic tanks in the City of Archer that are not permitted.

Section 4: Wastewater Treatment Alternatives Considered: Ms. Preble stated that the Sewer Committee discussed several options such as putting in a collection system and transmitting the wastewater to GRU or Williston. The Williston option was better than the Gainesville option financially, but the Sewer Committee felt that Archer wanted to be in charge of its own destiny and add customers without having to ask permission. After the report was prepared, a suggestion was made to send the wastewater to Newberry. Newberry's costs were greater than Gainesville or Williston, but they offered to carry the costs from their city limits. Based on this information, the Committee decided that the City of Archer should have its own wastewater system.

The Sewer Committee wanted to be responsible stewards of the environment and choose the most environmentally sound options that were available. This drove us to consider the infiltrating wetlands. The Committee discussed cheaper alternatives, such as annexing the property into the city limits, putting in a spray field, and a secondary treatment plant. The Committee did not like this option and it was not pursued. Ms. Preble noted that even if this option was pursued, Alachua County imposes strict standards and maintains that their water quality standards apply everywhere.

PUBLIC COMMENT: David Sistrand, Roberta Lopez, Sue Batey.

Section 5: Collection System Alternatives Considered: Ms. Preble stated that when she explained to DEP that the city wanted a gravity system, DEP recommended looking at vacuum systems, but did not shut the door on the gravity system. It was found that the medium-sized gravity system was the most cost-effective for the city. Ms. Preble noted that if we cannot convince DEP, there is a possibility that we can get the money from DEP for the wastewater treatment plant and let USDA fund the collection system.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joan White

Ms. Preble recapped that the Sewer Committee had strong objections to Holly Hills not being included in the first phase. The Holly Hills area was a good candidate for the CDBG grant, but sentiment was strong and plans were changed to encompass Holly Hills in the first phase. State agencies strongly advised to go with the medium-sized system if we wanted their support. The agencies based their recommendations on the misstep that Archer had encountered and recommended a smaller first step and working in phases.

Ms. Preble explained that the gravity system is where everything flows by gravity, lines are sloped and buried deep in the ground. The waste is collected at lift stations and processed from there. The grinder pump system is located at practically every house/business, and grinds up the waste and pumps it into a force-main. Vacuum systems have a series of vacuum lift stations that suck the wastewater out of the house/business along the lines. The advantage of the vacuum system is that during a power outage, a generator can be used at the lift station site. The disadvantage of the vacuum system is if there is a crack in the pipes the vacuum will suck in ground water. If a grinder system develops a leak, it will leak into the ground water. Florida Keys and East Point have vacuum systems and seem pleased with the system, however, there is not a vacuum system within one hundred miles of this area. Ms. Preble pointed out that the difference between the medium low pressure and the medium area gravity is approximately 1.6 million in construction costs.

Ms. Preble referred to the Loan Payback Analysis table and stated that \$225,000.00 is the amount of money that the City owes as result of the money paid to Baskerville Donovan that was not forgiven. The annual Debt Service will be in the region of \$68,736.17 per year and will be the annual expense for the City of Archer. This amount includes paying back the money when the City was working with Baskerville-Donovan, paying back the money going forward to construct the plant, operation and maintenance of the plant, and setting money aside every year to replace short lived assets.

The estimates of rates would be: Residential \$49.60, Commercial 1 \$76.30 and Commercial 2 \$451.00. The City Commission will set the rates. This information is to show how the City can service their debt.

PUBLIC COMMENT: December McSherry, Sue Batey

A discussion was brought forward by Committee Member Costello concerning the PER containing information about the Archer Elementary School's past septic tank issues. City Manager Folston read the section of the report concerning Archer Elementary School and noted that at no point in the document was the Archer Elementary School bad-mouthed. Ms. Preble stated that this is a required section of the report where the history must be documented. Ms. Preble stated that on the first page of the appendix is a copy of the memo from DEP requesting to "please close this out" as these concerns have been corrected without formal enforcement required. Ms. Preble stated that it was her understanding that there have been no problems since the corrections.

#### **B. Work Plan, attachment A-2 Grant Work Plan.**

The original Work Plan included the purchase of the land from the \$750,000.00 and \$30,000.00 for professional services which was used to fund part of the PER report. Remaining from the \$750,000.00 was roughly \$131,000.00 to be spent on maintenance and repairs. The following year the City pursued further funding, but failed. One of the theories for the failure was that the City had not spent the money already given, and funds should be spent on moving the project forward and not maintenance and repair.

Ms. Preble stated that she was asked to work with DEP to revise the Work Plan to include things that would move the project forward. In meeting with DEP, the decision was made to perform a more thorough investigation of the site for infiltrating wetlands. It was also determined that the information obtained from Baskerville-Donovan would require additional survey information. With the money that was left, the design of the medium-sized collection system was created. The revised Work Plan was brought to the Commission and the Commission referred it back to the Sewer Committee. The Sewer Committee approved the Work Plan and referred it back to the Commission.

Ms. Preble clarified that the City is not going into debt and the money she has been paid came from grant money or the legislative appropriation that Ms. Preble helped the City receive. The City did incur debt with the first project, but no debt has been associated with this project.

**III. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

December McSherry, Joan White, Dave Sistrand, Sue Batey, Doug Jones, Roberta Lopez, Doug Jones, December McSherry, Joan White, December McSherry, Michelle Harris, Sue Batey, December McSherry, Roberta Lopez.

**IV. EXCUSE OF ABSENCE**

**MOTION**

Committee Member Davis moved to excuse the absence of Committee Members, Amelia Davis and Dan Beck from the meeting tonight.

Committee Member Kasicki seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0. (Absent: Committee Member Lauderdale).

**V. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

None

**VI. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION:**

Committee Member Kasicki moved to adjourn the meeting.

Committee Member Davis seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0 Time: 7:55 pm. (Absent: Committee Member Lauderdale).

---

Vice Mayor, Susan Drawdy, Chair

---

City Manager, Zeria K. Folston