



*City of Naples*

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Workshop Meeting 8/10/90

City Council Chambers  
735 Eighth Street South  
Naples, Florida 33940

-SUBJECT-

PAGE

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1990/91

Utilities

Date 8/10/90

CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA

City Council Minutes

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| COUNCIL<br>MEMBERS | M<br>O<br>T<br>I<br>O<br>N | S<br>E<br>C<br>O<br>N<br>D | VOTE        |        | A<br>B<br>S<br>E<br>N<br>T |
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more overall on the water system. In response to Councilman Muenzer, the City Manager said that new water distribution lines were never installed without the City being reimbursed.

Utilities Director Chaffee explained to Council that only those water lines north of Pine Ridge have been turned over to the County. Collier County is implementing a sewer district east of Airport Road and it may be possible for the City to do the billing for the County.

Mayor Crawford mentioned that the aquifer is not affected if lines are installed outside the system. He also reminded Council of the importance of maintaining water quality. Councilman John Passidomo noted that controlling water and sewer is one method of controlling development and consequently protecting the citizens.

**Engineering Administration**

Director Chaffee distributed a handout giving an overall view of the Utilities Department, which now includes Engineering as a division.

Mayor Crawford told the assemblage that a large portion of the area north of Creech Road and east of Goodlette Road is still using septic tanks. Mr. Chaffee disclosed that there is not much development in that area and it would be a good workshop discussion item. Answering Councilman Anderson's question, Mr. Chaffee stated that to his knowledge there is no State requirement that all areas of the City be on a sewer system, although State law allows City Council authority to create an assessment district for that purpose.

Mr. Chaffee advised Council that the Engineering Administration and Utilities Administration budgets had now been combined and that he is confident savings will result. He explained that the Engineering employees will move to the Utilities Administration office during the course of this year, then be assimilated into the various divisions.

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Mayor Crawford asked if the City's water and sewer facilities were secure in the event of a hurricane. Director Chaffee answered that the physical plant was safe, but some damage would be experienced among the 105 outlying lift stations. Finance Director Bill Hanley assured Council that the City's insurance covers not only damage but six months' loss of revenue as well.

Councilman Anderson suggested that Council and Planning Director McKim discuss the effects of rebuilding in compliance with Coastal Construction regulations. Mr. Jones indicated that State regulations would be a major determining factor in rebuilding efforts.

Councilman Muenzer asked about \$250 each for four chairs and Mr. Chaffee said the cost will actually be \$100 each. When asked by Councilman Sullivan about the Machinery and Equipment item of \$815, Mr. Chaffee explained this was predominantly for telephones.

Councilman Sullivan requested more detailed information on the School and Training item. Mr. Chaffee explained that \$750 of the amount was for Engineering Administration employees and included two technical meetings, a design course, and one engineering society meeting.

Considerable discussion ensued following Councilman Herms' inquiry about \$2,000 requested for coffee in the Utilities budget. City Manager Jones told Council that coffee is provided to all City employees. Councilman Muenzer suggested Council at a later time consider offsetting coffee expenses with vending machine revenues since the two amounts are roughly equivalent.

#### Water Production

Answering Mayor Crawford, Mr. Chaffee said that water rates were last adjusted three years ago. Mr. Jones cautioned Council that a study must be done before any rate change is effected and that in preparation for adjusting water and sewer rates, an expert was consulted who said the City probably

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would not see a change in rates even if a study were done.

Director Chaffee explained that his department has standby electric power, facilitating a much lower electric utility rate because power is uninterrupted.

Councilman Passidomo left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Mr. Chaffee told Council that most of the chemicals used by the Utilities Department come from out of state and that because lime costs have gone up 5 or 6% he is investigating a lime by-product. Finance Director Hanley added that chloride costs have risen 20% this year, and Mr. Chaffee expressed concern that the Middle East crisis may cause those prices to rise even more. Councilman Anderson suggested the City develop a reserve stock of chemicals.

Councilman Herms asked about the decrease in payroll, and Mr. Chaffee reported that one Utilities Department employee was approaching retirement and with retraining and shifting of employees, that position was eliminated.

The increase in overtime, Mr. Chaffee explained, is the result of the change in holiday pay rates.

#### Water Distribution

Director Chaffee explained that every water meter in the City is checked every two months, and in response to Councilman Anderson, said that a sudden large jump in a customer's water bill reflects sprinkler system problems most of the time. Mayor Crawford inquired about the availability of a computer system that could be centrally monitored and Mr. Chaffee explained that his department uses a hand-held system whereby meters can actually be read by telephone.

Mr. Herms asked the reason for the increase from \$6,000 to \$9,500 in utility services to the division, and Director Chaffee informed Council that this was because the air conditioner was not

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| operating for long periods of time last year while construction was taking place and would now operate continually.   |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| Mr. Chaffee advised Council that overtime in the Water Distribution Division was not planned, but is necessary when there is a water main break or some other emergency. If applicable, the contractor involved is billed, but costs are nevertheless reflected in the budget.  |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| Sewer   |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| Finance Director Hanley explained to Council that sewer impact fees are primarily used for debt service but can be used for capital expansion as well. Sewer revenues will be greater this year because of 300 additional customers in the Bears Paw development.   |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| Responding to Councilman Muenzer's questions, Mr. Chaffee stated that the water reuse program originated in 1982, and the agreement made with golf courses at that time was for an assessment of \$25 per acre to cover estimated pumping costs. City Manager Jones noted that the City was very fortunate to have so many golf courses willing to take reuse water. At the present time the price is \$.06 per 1,000 gallons. <u>Discussion ensued concerning the reuse water system and it was suggested that a workshop be held at a later date to discuss policy.</u> |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| Wastewater Collection   |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| Referring to the School and Training item, Director Chaffee pointed out that the State encourages the education of wastewater collection employees.   |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| With regard to requests for lockers for the wastewater plant, Councilman Muenzer advised that the State contract bid is much lower than the requested \$3,000. Mr. Chaffee stated that he would endeavor to utilize that channel.   |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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| When asked about Wastewater Collection overtime by Councilman Herms, Mr. Chaffee explained that in  |                            |                            |             |        |                  |
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most cases, employees are brought in when needed rather than regularly scheduled, and many jobs require a crew rather than just one person.

Councilman Muenzer asked about the radio upgrading request. Mr. Chaffee explained that much of the department's equipment is between ten and 20 years old and upgrading would be more costly than purchasing new radios. He also noted that the broadcast strength is sufficient at present. City Manager Jones added that the City will be observing the County's move to a higher frequency system.

Councilman Anderson left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

**Utilities Maintenance**

When asked by Councilman Muenzer about the requested \$1,000 for a lawn mower, Director Chaffee said that a more expensive, high-wheeled type of commercial mower for rough terrain is necessary for mowing around the City's 150 lift stations.

Because Barnett Bank donated office furniture to the Utilities Maintenance Division, Mr. Chaffee asked Council to remove that request from the budget.

In response to Councilman Herms' question, Mr. Chaffee explained that soil and water analysis for chloride must be conducted directly on the golf courses, and costs have doubled this year because testing is now required every six months.

**Sanitation**

Mr. Chaffee answered questions concerning cover material at the horticultural landfill and assured Council that it has passed all Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

Councilman Sullivan left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The City recycling program was outlined by Director Chaffee and he announced there had been a large increase in the number of commercial accounts using the cardboard recycling program. He further

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informed Council that the City is recycling approximately 100 tons of newspaper a month. City Manager Jones noted that grants have helped to pay for equipment.

**Residential**

Mayor Crawford asked about the decreased payroll in the Residential and Commercial Divisions, and Mr. Chaffee answered that one superintendent is now being utilized in three areas.

**Commercial**

Councilman Muenzer suggested that once again the sanitation customers should be notified of the landfill rate increases the City has experienced.

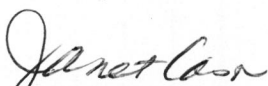
Mayor Crawford announced that the Fire and Police Department budgets would be reviewed after the August 13 City Council Workshop.


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ADJOURN: 12:05 p.m.

  
JANET CASON  
CITY CLERK

  
ALDEN R. CRAWFORD, JR., Mayor

MARILYN MCCORD  
RECORDING SECRETARY

These minutes of the Naples City Council were approved on September 5, 1990.