

City of Davenport Commission Workshop Minutes of March 1, 2021

Minutes of the Commission Workshop of the City of Davenport, Florida, held Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Room after having been properly advertised with the following members present: Mayor H.B. Robinson and Commission Members Vice-Mayor Brynn Summerlin (in at 6:38pm), Commissioner Bobby Lynch, Commissioner Tom Fellows and Commissioner Jeremy Clark. Also present: City Manager Kelly Callihan and City Attorney Tom Cloud.

Mayor Robinson declared a quorum present and opened the meeting.

BUSINESS

1. PRESENTATION OF US HIGHWAY 17/92 CORRIDOR ACTION PLAN

Mr. Dedrick Urich with the Department of Transportation introduced Mr. David Nelson with Renaissance Planning and consultant on the project.

Mr. Nelson provided a PowerPoint presentation (on file) advising that they have been studying a twelve-mile stretch of US 17/92 from US 27 to the Polk/Osceola County Line.

The key challenges of the US 17/92 corridor reflect its unique position in the central Florida region and are a result of the area's growth. These include:

- Lack of alternate or parallel routes concentrates travel congestion on US 17/92.
- Lack of operational improvements at key intersections, combined with high vehicle speeds and volume of traffic, create hazards for motorists and unsafe conditions for non-motorized users.
- Development patterns (such as underutilized/vacant parcels and varied urban form) create disjointed downtown character
- Lack of infrastructure, amenities, and destinations discourage people from walking or bicycling.
- Lack of transit service and the absence of amenities discourage ridership.
- Gateways, streetscape elements, and other identifiers are absent.

This corridor transformation would be accomplished through a strategic action plan which would include:

- Expanding choices for both motorized and non-motorized users by giving them some options on where they can travel
- Create alternative routes to take the pressure away from US 27 & Hwy. 17/92
- Reconfigure roadway cross-sections by adding turning lanes
- Undertake traffic operational and safety studies at key US 17/92 intersections
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle enhancements at key intersections
- Add transit amenities
- Enhance the public realm using streetscaping elements
- Implement gateway treatments
- Update land use policies in urban areas along the corridor

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Mr. Nelson concluded by outlining the Implementation Plan along with the planning level costs, noting the timeframe and cost for each action item.

Brief discussion ensued with the Commission questioning if Highway 17/92 was turned over to local government who would it be the city or the county and had there been any discussion about 4-laning it. Mr. Nelson answered that depending on the jurisdictional lines it would be the city or the county as opposed to DOT. As for their other question, he responded that there have been talks about it, but in their view it would still pull all the traffic into one spot through Haines City and Davenport and they felt that the traffic should be separated. Hence the many studies done to help alleviate this congestion. Part of this was the Powerline Road extension which would help.

The Commission voiced their appreciation at the different avenues being proposed and were encouraged that the conversation had started; and any improvements would help.

In closing, Mr. Urich drew their attention at the Resolution of support and asked that they consider adopting it at a later meeting.

2. PRESENTATION BY CPH ENGINEERING ON ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE STUDY

Utilities Director Mike Stripling advised that staff had asked for a feasibility study on Alternative Water Supply. In addition, Staff had sent a letter to PRWC letting them know that the City would look at a project. Mike explained that the City has been working with the PRWC and staff was not suggesting shunning or doing away with the PRWC project. He advised that the feasibility study had a connection for any future projects that they might have with PRWC. The issue at hand was that they had a 5 year Water Use Permit with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). In this 5 year permit they had to take 1 million gallons of water per day (gpd) of Alternative Water Supply (PWS) from a future PRWC project. The Attorney and Staff had worked very hard to get them to put in language that said "either a PRWC Alternative Water Supply or develop their own". Mike emphasized that this was in their current permit. This being said, the Permit was for 5 years. PRWC has said that the earliest that they can get the City water is 6 or 7 years or the year 2027, which is outside of their 5 year permit.

Mike shared that the cost from the PRWC has been anywhere from \$86 million all the way to their current figure of \$14 million. This he stressed did not include buying the water and was just capital cost. The cost of buying 1 million gallons per day (gpd) for 365 days would be in the millions of dollars. Mike pointed out that it would be more cost effective if the project was closer to Davenport but it wasn't and it was going to be costly to get it to them and costly to treat it.

What this report basically showed them was that they could build their own for about \$8.5 million with no grant funding.

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The City Manager stated that the reason why they had gone to them to do the study for Alternative Water Supply was because they had caught wind of these high figures. There was no way that the City could afford this. PRWC was pushing real hard for them to sign the Phase 2 Agreement and commit to a project; and they wanted to know by March 17th. He had contacted PRWC to see when they could come talk to them. They were looking at a Workshop on March 10th at 6pm. Kelly pointed out that the Commission would need to make a decision if they moved forward with one of their projects or do a standalone as outlined in the feasibility study.

Mike noted that whenever they did show up, they were going to tell them that there was millions of dollars in grant funding and low interest loans that stood in the balance of this March 17th meeting. He pointed out that they were correct, but this was Countywide and Davenport would only get a very small portion of this.

At this time, Mike turned the floor over to Scott Breitenstein and Robbie Gonzalez with CPH Engineering.

Taking the floor first, Mr. Breitenstein advised that CPH had conducted a feasibility study to evaluate the Lower Florida Aquifer water source as an Alternative Water Supply option for the City. The purpose of the feasibility study was to detail the planning efforts to test, construct and treat a LFA well and connect to their well as an Alternative Water Supply.

Mr. Robbie Gonzalez provided that they had looked at other wells in the area. They had looked at two monitoring wells within a radius of 2 miles of their existing facility. There were two production wells within 15 miles to the north and another one near Providence subdivision. He further outlined the cost estimates, drawing their attention to the Forced Draft Aeration, and the Blending and Stabilization Facility. He noted that these figures were still in their draft form. Mr. Gonzalez further informed them that they could phase out the project and funding possibilities were available to them.

Mike informed them that the Water Management District had moved most of their funding to regional projects and this of course was not a regional project and would not be high on the list even if they got placed on the list for funding. But whether they did it themselves and without any funding, it would still be less money than what they would pay PRWC for the same amount of water.

In answer to Commissioner Fellows' question, Mr. Gonzalez responded that even if they stayed with PRWC they would still have to do the blending and stabilization.

Vice-Mayor Summerlin asked what the chances were of getting on the 50%, 30% or any list. Mike answered that it would be slim.

The Attorney informed them that they were being told that whether or not they asked for state funding that the Water Cooperative had a veto right over the cities doing their own project. They were taking the position under the Agreement that once they signed any implementation agreement even if it was just for planning and not construction they've

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had them by their little toe and they could only do what they said. However under the original 2016 Interlocal Agreement, he informed them that it allowed cities to independently pursue an AWS project.

The City Manager and Mike both pointed out that the city hadn't even signed up for a project. Yet they were putting them in the Southeast Wellfield. They wanted them to sign the Phase 2 Agreement and lock Davenport into that agreement and at the same time were telling them that there were some "off-ramps" they could take. They were also trying to tell them that they were not going to fund them or permit them.

The Vice-Mayor drew their attention to the conservative figure of \$18 million vs the potential of it being \$100 million. Further citing that it was a no brainer.

The Attorney informed them that PRWC was under a contractual obligation under the 2016 Agreement to do no harm and be supportive of their Water Use Permit and secondly they couldn't take action that harmed the water allocation under their water use permit.

Concluding the presentation, Mike informed them that their next step would be to enter into an Agreement with CPH for the test well to check out the water quality.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.

Raquel Castillo, City Clerk