

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

March 13, 2012

Summary

Chair Blues called the meeting to order at 1:0 PM. All members were present except Myers. Kay was also present.

1. Sanitary Sewer Capacity Assurance Program (CAP)

Charlie Martin presented the sanitary sewer Capacity Assurance Program. The CAP program was required by the EPA Consent Decree to ensure that adequate capacity is available before new demand via new customers. Mr. Martin discussed present capacity and the data base used to manage the program including hydraulic calculations.

Mr. Martin stated that the CAP will enable LFUCG to authorize new sewer service connections, or increases in flow from existing sewer service connections only after LFUCG has determined that there is adequate treatment capacity, adequate transmission capacity and adequate collection capacity. Further Mr. Martin stated that prior to authorizing any new connections, LFUCG must certify that new flow combined with existing flow will not result in unpermitted bypasses or diversions, or result in noncompliance.

Mr. Martin also stated that prior to authorizing new connections LFUCG must certify that a pump station receiving new flow has the capacity to transmit one-hour peak flow for existing flow, the proposed new flow and any future flow previously certified but not yet received.

Mr. Martin stated that gravity sewers would have the same restrictions. Prior to authorizing new connections LFUCG must certify that gravity sewers receiving new flow has the capacity to transmit one-hour peak flow for existing flow, the proposed new flow and any future flow previously certified but not yet received without causing surcharge conditions.

Mr. Martin defined surcharged conditions. He stated that under one-hour peak flow conditions, water in the gravity sewer manhole cannot be more than 24" above the top of the pipe or within 3' of the manhole rim.

Mr. Martin stated that if capacity does not exist, "capacity recovery" credits can be used as a means to authorize additional sewer flows in lieu of capacity certification.

Mr. Martin stated that the EPA has agreed that certain essential services are exceptions to the certification process including: health care facilities; public safety facilities; public schools; and other facilities as agreed upon by the EPA.

Mr. Martin stated that LFUCG must submit its CAP plan to the EPA by January 13, 2013 and LFUCG must begin to implement the CAP no later than 30 days after the EPA approval.

Vice Mayor Gorton asked about other communities, including Knoxville that uses credits. She also asked about the exceptions for health care, public safety and public school facilities. She asked what happens if there isn't adequate capacity. In response Mr. Martin stated that the exceptions may lead to negative credits.

Councilmember Kay asked about the data bases utilized and asked if they could be integrated with other needs of the government.

Councilmember Blues asked about future direction. In response Mr. Martin stated that he would like to use a task force to direct the CAP project similar to the water quality user fee.

On a motion by Councilmember Stinnett, second Councilmember Kay, the Committee requested that Vice Mayor Gorton form a Capacity Assurance Program Task Force. Motion passed without dissent.

2. Division of Water Quality Projects

Charlie Martin and Julie Mantrom presented.

3. Empower Lexington Plan

Susan Bush and Tom Webb presented. Ms. Bush stated that when the Administration initially presented they stated that they planned to bring back a resolution for Council consideration. She stated that the resolution if adopted would lead its work to reduce our carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency in the community.

Councilmember Farmer stated that he had concerns about how the resolution would be utilized.

Councilmember Martin stated that he was in favor of the resolution and its goals to reduce energy consumption.

Vice Mayor Gorton spoke in favor of the resolution that it directed how Lexington would reduce energy consumption and become more energy efficient.

Councilmember Stinnett asked how the annual 1% energy reduction was determined. In response Mr. Webb stated that it was a consensus of the stakeholders.

On a motion by Councilmember Martin, second Councilmember Henson, the Committee recommended approved of the Resolution to the entire Council. Motion passed on a 6-2 vote (Farmer & Crosbie- No).

On a motion by Vice Mayor Gorton, second Councilmember Kay, the Committee recommended amending the resolution inserting between Sections 3 & 4 stating that the Department of Environmental Quality will report annually to the Council. Motion passed on a 7-2 vote (Farmer & Crosbie- No).

On a motion by Councilmember Lane, second Councilmember McChord, the Committee recommended amending the resolution to include an annual from the Urban County Government on efforts to reduce energy costs passed without dissent.

4. Public Comment

Edward Kusche spoke about the water quality fee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

PAS 2.29.12