

CITY MANAGER REPORT

FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING MAY 9, 2011

1. Workshops

May 23 – 6:15 p.m.

Financial Trends Workshop

July 11 – 4:00 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Workshop

July 25 – 3:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

August 1 – 4:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

2. Watermain Break & Road Reconstruction – Collins Street at CSX Railway, near Laura Street

At about 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, while installing a conduit by directional drilling, a CSX Railroad crew and contractor damaged a 6” cast iron watermain pipe beneath the southerly CSX rail line near the intersection of Collins Street and Laura Street. The damaged watermain eroded a small cavern beneath the railroad tracks and portions of Collins Street.

Isolation valves on the watermain were closed, interrupting service to several businesses along Collins Street between Reynolds Street and Renfro Street. Water service was restored to customers north of Laura Street by 2:30 a.m. Thursday morning; a mandatory boil water notice was cleared for these customers by 10:00 a.m. Saturday. Water service was restored to customers south of Laura Street by 1:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon; a mandatory boil water notice was cleared for these customers by 10:00 a.m. Monday. All watermain work was accomplished by City staff.

The City requested emergency assistance from Wetherington Tractor Service, Inc. on Friday, April 29, in order to complete repair of the roadway including the area beneath the railroad tracks. Cost to complete this work is estimated to be less than \$50,000. This work is anticipated to be complete no later than Tuesday, May 10. If the City

Commission concurs, a resolution is included which ratifies the City Manager's emergency award.

Staff's first priority has been to restore water service and to reopen the roadway and railway. Other costs may be encountered and/or shared with CSX pending final resolution of liabilities.

3. Alexander Street Extension Naming

Paul S. Buchman Highway from I-4 to U.S. 301 was designated by an act of the Florida Legislature on March 28, 1994 (Chapter 94-363, Florida Statutes). The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven office is consulting with the FDOT Legislative Affairs office to obtain clarification as to whether or not the legislative designation should transfer to the new alignment of S.R. 39 should the City and FDOT mutually agree to realign S.R. 39 from downtown Plant City to Alexander Street when the construction is completed.

4. Installation of Stock Lumber Prefabricated Building

I have authorized an agreement with Fred Roach Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$18,900 for the installation of a prefabricated building at 1500 Victoria Street to be utilized as a large vehicle wash facility for the Utilities Department. This is one of the buildings previously salvaged from the Stock Lumber site in the Midtown Redevelopment area.

5. SWFWMD Funding to Reduce Groundwater Withdrawals at Five Strawberry Farms in the Dover/Plant City Area

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Governing Board last week voted to help fund \$1.9 million in projects that will help reduce groundwater withdrawals in eastern Hillsborough County by 550,000 gallons per day and 18 million gallons for frost/freeze protection.

All five projects are located on strawberry farms within the proposed Dover/Plant City Water Use Caution Area. During the 11-day January 2010 Freeze Event, the combined pumping of Dover-area farmers dropped the aquifer level 60 feet in some locations, resulting in 140 sinkholes and impacting more than 750 wells. The District developed a management strategy with incentives to reduce groundwater use over time, well construction standards and regulatory limitations on water use in the area. To implement

one component of the strategy, the Board voted to create a new water use caution area in the Dover/Plant City area.

The projects are funded under the District's Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program, an agricultural cost-share reimbursement program that conserves water and protects water quality. Funding is being provided by the District's Governing Board and the Alafia River Basin Board for FARMS projects at Astin Farms, San-Way Farms, Sewell Farms, Sizemore Farms, and Sydney Farms.

To qualify for FARMS funding, projects must be located in the District and include one or more of the following best management practice strategies:

- Use an alternative water supply or technology to reduce groundwater use.
- Improve irrigation water quality and watershed ecology by reducing reliance on poorer quality groundwater.
- Restore or augment water resources and ecology in priority areas.

For more information and details on how to qualify for the FARMS Program, visit the District's website at www.WaterMatters.org/farms/.

6. Winter Visitor Center Room Designation

In recognition of her many years of community service in Plant City since 1957, including volunteering as a senior aerobics class instructor with the Recreation & Parks Department since 1991, a proclamation will be presented to Clarise Stewart designating the main room at the Winter Visitor Center in her honor on Friday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m. at 403 Dort Street.

7. Kickball Events at Snowden Park

Recently, several kickball games have been scheduled on Sunday evenings at Snowden Park. As a side effect of these games being played, large crowds of over 1,000 spectators have converged on the park each week, creating problems with traffic, parking, noise, litter and more. A meeting was held last week with the organizers and City staff from various departments to develop methods to control the crowd activities that have been attracted to the park.

8. Eagle Scout Project - Mike E. Sansone Community Park Entrances

The entrances at Mike E. Sansone Community Park were recently enhanced as part of Aaron Sheppard's Eagle Scout project. The area around the main west entrance sign at Park Road was cleared and the plants, sod and mulch replaced while the area around the sign at the Wilder Road entrance was similarly done without any added sod. Aaron organized this project to benefit the park as he lives in the neighborhood and has spent many years using its facilities playing football, baseball and soccer. He is a senior at Strawberry Crest High School with a 3.75 GPA, a member of the wrestling team, volunteers at the South Florida Baptist Hospital, and his college goal is to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. Aaron worked in consultation with a landscaper on the project and all materials and labor were donated.

9. Employee Recognition

Mike Mullis, Building Department and the Utilities Maintenance Division crew – Faye L. Cook recently wrote in appreciation of their diligence on the job which potentially saved her over \$2,000 for unnecessary work. On a Saturday several weeks ago, she contacted a plumbing company which unstopped her drain, but told her that she also needed to replace the main pipe in her front yard. Mike Mullis was able to determine that the clog was in the City's pipe and contacted the Utilities Maintenance crew to clear the line.

10. Building Division Permits

PERMITS ISSUED				
APRIL 2011 (F/Y 2010-2011)				
	<u>CURRENT MONTH</u>		<u>PRIOR YEAR MONTH</u>	
Type of Permit Issued	# of Permits	Estimated Value	# of Permits	Estimated Value
New Residential (SF) Units	4	\$757,000	4	\$663,809
New Duplex/Townhouse Units	0	\$0	3	\$334,000
New Multi-Family (MF) Units	0	\$0	0	\$0
Residential Repairs, Alterations & Additions	66	\$427,410	41	\$181,497
New Commercial Construction	3	\$2,603,500	4	\$120,000
New Industrial Construction	0	\$0	0	\$0
Non-Res. Building Repairs, Alterations & Additions	10	\$304,680	8	\$72,200
Miscellaneous: Fences, Pools, etc.	17	\$105,075	22	\$104,408
Mobile Homes	4	\$7,200	1	\$2,300
Demolition	1	\$2,000	0	\$0
Mechanical	38	\$266,933	66	\$297,423
Plumbing	32	\$337,521	40	\$118,673
Gas	4	\$23,740	3	\$31,200
Electrical	35	\$481,006	73	\$140,645
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	214	\$5,316,065	265	\$2,066,155
% CHANGE / PRIOR YEAR	-19.2%	157.3%		
CUMULATIVE YTD	1,224	\$22,870,476	1,443	\$19,820,688
CUMULATIVE % CHANGE YOY	-15.1%	15.4%		
NOTES				

1. "Year" means fiscal year; begins October 1 each calendar year and ends September 30 the following calendar year.

2. "Cumulative YTD" includes all current & prior month totals for the respective fiscal year.

3. "% Change / Prior Year" is the net percentage increase or decrease from the prior fiscal year's monthly totals.

4. "Cumulative % Change YOY" is the net percentage increase or decrease from the prior fiscal year's cumulative totals.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PLANT CITY, FLORIDA, FINDING THAT IT WAS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DISPENSE WITH BIDDING FOR ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION ON COLLINS STREET AT CSX; CONFIRMING THE CITY MANAGER'S AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR SAID REPAIRS TO WETHERINGTON TRACTOR SERVICE, INC.

Whereas, the City Manager reported that roadway on Collins Street at CSX was in need of emergency repairs; and

Whereas, the City Manager obtained a quotation from Wetherington Tractor Service, Inc. for roadway reconstruction on Collins Street at CSX and immediately awarded a contract for the repair; and

Whereas, in accordance with Section 2-143(8), Plant City Code, the City Commission of the City of Plant City, Florida finds that it is in the public interest to dispense with the necessity of competitive awards for the work and materials for roadway reconstruction on Collins Street at CSX; and that the City Manager was justified in proceeding with the work; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PLANT CITY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City Manager's award of a contract for said roadway reconstruction on Collins Street at CSX to Wetherington Tractor Service, Inc. is confirmed.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage.

Adopted by the City Commission on May 9, 2011.

ATTEST:

William D. Dodson
Vice-Mayor

Kerri J. Miller
City Clerk

Approved as to form and correctness:

Kenneth W. Buchman
City Attorney