

CITY OF BUNKER HILL VILLAGE

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUNKER HILL VILLAGE, TEXAS JULY 14, 2011 – 8:00 A.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Essary called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 11977 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas.

Present:

City Staff:

Mayor Derry D. Essary
Councilman Keith Brown
Councilman Dave Ellis
Councilwoman Susan Schwartz
Councilman Jay Smyre
Councilman Jay Williams

Ruthie Sager, City Administrator
Steve Smith, Dir of Public Works/Blding Official
Tom Ramsey, City Engineer

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING A REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF HOUSTON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STREY LANE DRAINAGE PROJECT BY ALLOWING RIEDEL DRIVE TO DRAIN INTO THE SYSTEM

Mr. Ramsey, with Klotz Engineering, said he received an email from the City of Houston regarding a possible joint participation in the Strey Lane Drainage Project. Mr. Ramsey said the City of Houston wanted to know if they could buy capacity in the Strey Lane Drainage Project. He said they want to find a solution to their flooding issues in the Riedel Subdivision, which is just north of Taylorcrest. He said the City of Houston wants to sit down and talk with the City of Bunker Hill Village about the possibility and the cost. Mr. Ramsey said to include the Riedel Subdivision we would have to increase the pipe size down Strey Lane. Mr. Ramsey said to even consider adding the Riedel Subdivision in with our project there would be design issues and additional costs which all would lead to time delays. Mr. Ramsey said before they do anything he wanted to get a feel from city council on how to move forward.

The mayor said why this is so frustrating to the city is over the past six months Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) facilitated regional discussions for a solution to the drainage issues involving W151. Those meetings included the City of Bunker Hill Village, the TIRZ, the City of Hedwig Village, the City of Houston, and HCFCD. The mayor said at the first meeting we laid out what we were going to do down Strey Lane and our timeline for the project. Mayor Essary stated we were willing to put six million dollars in for a regional solution involving W151. At those meetings Mayor Essary said we would entertain a discussion of how other participants might be involved in that project. He said we were looking for at least a two million dollar offset from any participant that wanted to join in the project. He said the only entity that stepped up was the City of Hedwig Village.

The mayor said he cannot without council standing with him tell the tax payers of Bunker Hill Village we are going to turn other entity's money down. He said we need the City of Houston to get the bayou.

Mr. Ramsey said in the Riedel area the upper one third drains to Barryknoll and the lower two thirds drains to the east. It was stated that none of the water drains across Taylorcrest.

Councilman Ellis pointed out that if we added the Riedel Subdivision it would add more water down Strey Lane and into the bayou. He said HCFCD accepted the Strey Lane Drainage Preliminary Design based on no negative impact downstream. Councilman Ellis said adding the Riedel area would add water changing downstream to a negative impact. He also stated adding the Riedel area to the design would delay the project and we would not make our target date of before hurricane season 2012.

Councilman Brown said he met with all the entities over six years ago and Bunker Hill Village is the only entity that has moved forward with a solution.

Mr. Ramsey said of all the entities that we have dealt with the City of Houston has been very helpful in the past with the Knipp Road Project and Bunker Hill Road Project.

Councilman Brown pointed out when they had the public meetings to educate the public on the bond issuance they told the public it would only be Bunker Hill Village's water going down Strey Lane.

Councilman Smyre said we represent all the residents of Bunker Hill Village. He said he did not see anything negative to just talk with the City of Houston. He said if we say no to this what would City of Houston's temperature be in helping us on the east side of the City. He said as he understands at this point, we are just communicating, not taking a vote. He also said if for example the City of Houston did put in two million dollars he would feel comfortable going back to the residents and explaining the change.

The mayor asked Mr. Ramsey if he thought as our projects stands now, are we going to have any opposition with HCFCD? Mr. Ramsey responded yes. Mr. Ramsey clarified his answer in that the project has drawn a lot of attention and they are going to look at all the details. The mayor said he felt that there are political entities setting up a public relations campaign to say this project is not in the best interest of the region.

Mr. Ramsey said the reason everyone is interested in the outfall point at Pebble Hill is if we had a five hundred year rain event in Buffalo Bayou and water backs up in Stoney Creek/W151 the outfall at Pebble Hill is higher than that, meaning it will still flow.

The mayor said to council that he does not want to delay our project but would like to give Mr. Ramsey the authority to sit down and talk to the City of Houston. Mr. Ramsey said let him sit down and find out what the City of Houston is possibly willing to do. He said what is the number they are willing to pay to participate? Councilman Williams wanted to clarify that we are looking for the City of Houston to pay to participate in the original design at an estimated cost of two million dollars and pay whatever the cost would be to upsize to accommodate Riedel Drive.

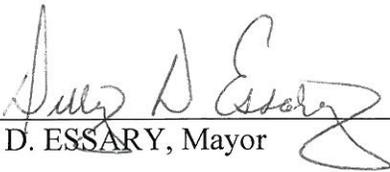
Councilman Brown stated to the mayor, discussion leads to delay and the past is a predictor. He said we are not going with Riedel Drive for a regional solution, he said it's a piecemeal solution. Councilman Brown also said what stops the City of Houston and the TIRZ at some point in the future from putting in a four foot pipe down Barryknoll to Riedel.

Councilman Brown and Councilwoman Schwartz want to move forward with Strey Lane and not include or engage in a discussion with City of Houston. Councilman Williams, Councilman Ellis, and Councilman Smyre are in agreement to have Mr. Ramsey talk with the City of Houston.

III. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Councilman Smyre and seconded by Councilman Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 9.07 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Approved and accepted on August 16, 2011.


DERRY D. ESSARY, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kelly Johnson, City Secretary