

Storm Water Task Force Meeting

April 30, 2019

6:00 p.m

City of St. Marys Tourism Building

Members Present:

Tommy Sailors – Chairperson
Grace Ashcroft – Vice Chairperson
Gregg Marx
Dave Reilly

City Officials Present:

John J. Holman, City Manager
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Alise Pate, Public Works Senior Admin.

Call to Order

Mr. Tommy Sailors called the Storm Water Task Force meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Mr. Sailors conducted a roll call confirming a quorum of members present for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dave Reilly made a Motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2019 meeting. Mr. Gregg Marx seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Reilly made a Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Marx seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Set Regular Meeting Schedule

Discussion was held regarding a schedule for meeting dates and times for the Task Force.

Mr. Reilly made a Motion that the Storm Water Task Force would meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Marys Main Street Office, 418 Osborne Street, St. Marys, Georgia. Mr. Marx seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Storm Water Management Discussion – Courtney Reich, GMC

Ms. Courtney Reich of Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood (GMC) Engineering Firm gave a presentation of storm water management, storm water capital improvement programs, costs of services, future goals and the extent of services of a storm water program.

Ms. Reich reviewed GMC's roles to assist the Storm Water Task Force that include facilitating a monthly meeting, conducting an online community survey, gathering input from the committee and assisting with the determination of the methodology of the program.

Ms. Reich provided information on how development and impervious surfaces impact drainage and how the aging and undersized infrastructure does not properly handle drainage.

Mr. Rob Brown, Water Resources Engineer with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood (GMC) Engineering Firm, provided an overview of the Sea Level Rise Study and the 2008 St. Marys Stormwater Master Plan. Mr. Brown stated some of the projects in the 2008 Stormwater Master Plan have been completed and that some projects would need to be updated or added based on priorities provided by the City. Mr. Brown provided an updated cost estimate based on increased costs from 2008 to 2019.

Ms. Reich reviewed the Community Rating System (CRS) program that is a part of the National Flood Insurance Plan. This system rating score is based on activities and programs administered by the City. Homeowner flood insurance discounts are available based on the rating score.

Mr. Bobby Marr reviewed the operations and maintenance of drainage systems. Mr. Marr stated his work force for ditch maintenance was reduced to one crew whereas he formerly had two crews. Mr. Marr stated he is currently working to hire staff to add back an additional ditch crew and a mini excavator has been approved for purchase that will greatly assist with maintaining small drainage easements between houses.

Ms. Reich reviewed the current cost of storm water management and funding sources including an option of implementing a Storm Water User Fee. Ms. Reich stated if a User Fee was implemented all of the revenue would be dedicated to only storm water projects. Ms. Reich stated options for user fees include either a flat user fee per developed property or an assessed cost to all parcels based on impermeable surfaces on the property with credits available for water quality management, detention facilities or no direct discharge.

Ms. Reich reviewed the Extent of Services (EOS) of a storm water plan. Ms. Reich stated the City would need to establish a formal policy for allocation of limited resources, manage the homeowner's expectations and enforce policy to comply with legal requirements. Additionally, decisions of moving forward would include determining a user assessment fee, education to the public, a credit policy, an Ordinance passed by the City Council, a billing mechanism and training of City employees on the program.

Discussion was held regarding the goals of the Task Force. Mr. Marx stated it is necessary to find funds for fixing the drainage problems. Mr. Sailors stated projects would need to be prioritized and inform the public of the need for the program. Mr. Marx stated drainage issues do not occur just when the City is impacted by a hurricane. Ms. Grace Ashcroft stated drainage issues occur during minor rain events and an education component would be necessary for the public that a drainage program is necessary even when the City is not hit by a hurricane.

Mr. John Holman requested GMC to draft a mission statement and goals for the Task Force and create a public survey for the committee to review at the May 14, 2019 meeting. Ms. Reich confirmed GMC would provide the requested information.

No further discussion was held.

Adjournment

Mr. Reilly made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Marx seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m., April 30, 2019.