

*City of Jasper*  
*200 Burnt Mountain Road*  
*Jasper, Georgia 30143*  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019

- I. Call hearing to order
- II. Sewerage System Improvements
  - A. Chris Poje (Turnipseed Engineering)
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Adjourn

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

Members Present:

Mayor John Weaver

Staff:

Lisa Hoyle

Brandon Douglas

Guests in Attendance:

Mari Livsey

Chris Poje

Members Absent:

John Foust

Tony Fountain

Anne Sneve

Kirk Raffield

Dr. Sonny Proctor

Press:

Dan Pool

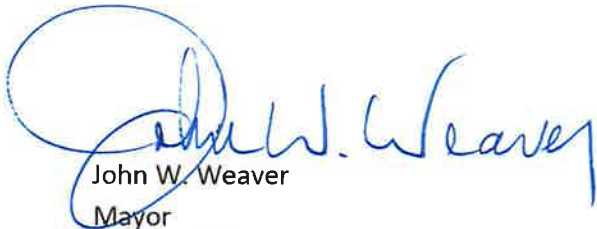
Mayor Weaver opened the public hearing promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Weaver welcomed the press (Pickens County Progress) as well as KnowPickens.com. He also recognized City Manager Brandon Douglas. He then recognized Mr. Chris Poje with Turnipseed Engineers to present the sewerage system improvements to be funded by Georgia's Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Mr. Poje stated that this meeting is being conducted to gather public input regarding the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant to 1.56 million gallons per day. Mr. Poje stated that this meeting along with the last public hearing to support the environmental information document is being held in order to gather any comments from the public that might be included in the final report to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Mr. Poje stated that since the last public hearing held in July of 2017, there has been a change in the plan for the wastewater treatment plant to discharge into Long Swamp Creek rather than Polecat Branch. He stated this change would result in a less restrictive permit and would alleviate the plant having to do temperature control and some of the other really stringent nutrient control of the discharge. He stated that his firm has changed all the reports to reflect the changes. He stated that in June of 2018 his firm sent a revised antidegradation review as well as a revised design development report to the EPD. He stated that in November of 2018 his firm sent a revised environmental planning document which is hand in hand with the environmental information document. He stated city council had authorized his firm to prepare these reports not only to support the permitting process with the state of Georgia but also to support the environmental review process with GEFA (one of the funding agencies). He stated that as of December of 2018 all updated documents required for the funding had been submitted and in January of 2019 this meeting was scheduled in order to finalize the review process requiring public input. He stated that as soon as the Environmental Protection Division issued a No Significant Impact report, shortly thereafter the city would begin receiving loan documents from GEFA and USDA. Mr. Poje stated that the discharge into Long Swamp Creek was a win-win for the city as the water coming into the creek downstream from the city's intake as a water source would increase the flow to the creek and could help the city's withdrawal permit. He stated that the total cost of the expansion was estimated at \$7.66 million dollars.

Mayor Weaver opened the floor to comments and questions regarding the wastewater treatment plant. Dan Pool of the Pickens Progress asked a question regarding leachate. Mr. Poje explained how it is treated by chlorination/dechlorination. Mr. Poje stated that there would be no problem in treated leachate going back into Long Swamp Creek. Mr. Pool asked how would the plant look after the expansion – would it be significantly larger and would it require additional property. Mr. Poje stated that the wastewater treatment plant would be on the same footprint as it is currently. He stated when the plant was built in 1982 this expansion was planned for at that time by Mr. Ben Turnipseed. Mr. Pool asked how many more homes/businesses could be added to the system. Mr. Poje stated that literally the system would be double the capacity of the current system. Mayor Weaver stated that currently the plant was operating at 80% capacity. Mayor Weaver stated that this increase would permit the city to continue to grow commercially as well as residentially. Mayor Weaver stated that if not for this increase in capacity, the city would be looking at having to raise the rates on existing customers. He stated that the city was ready to pull the

trigger on this increase in 2006-2007, but stopped due to the downturn in the economy. He also commented that there would be opposition on the release of the discharge into Long Swamp Creek. He stated that without the change to discharge into Long Swamp the city would not be able to meet most of the conditions of the EPD. He stated that it needs to be understood that this discharge would have a positive effect on the creek especially during drought conditions. He also stated that in the future the city would need more public hearings. He wanted to let it be known to the residents that if the city does not change the discharge to Long Swamp Creek and expand its wastewater treatment plant in order to increase the discharge permit, the city would be facing a moratorium from the Environmental Protection Division. Mayor Weaver stated that a moratorium would be the ultimate in stopping the commercial and residential growth in Jasper.

Mayor Weaver thanked Mr. Poje and the press for attending and being no other questions or comments, Mayor Weaver adjourned the public hearing. Council is scheduled to convene next at the regular meeting to be held March 4, 2019.



John W. Weaver  
Mayor



Lisa J. Hoyle  
City Clerk/Finance Director