



City of Jonesboro

Meeting Minutes

Public Works Council Committee

900 West Monroe
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

3:00 PM

Huntington Building

Special Called Meeting

1. Call To Order

Mr. Tony Thomas and Ms. Misty Micenhamer from the Mayor's Office were also in attendance.

Councilman Frierson left at 3:27 p.m.

Present 5 - John Street; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; Cecil Province and Mitch Johnson

Absent 1 - Darrel Dover

2. New Business

RES-07:2539 RESOLUTION CONCERNING CTP CONTRACT WITH CARTER-BURGESS

Floodplain Administrator Teddy Hooton discussed the current 1991 maps compared to the proposed maps by Carter-Burgess related to Whiteman's Creek. Councilman Moore questioned how much has been added to the floodplain under the Carter-Burgess study. Mr. Hooton stated he was unsure how much was added. Chairman Street noted the elevation was increased in that area and would adversely affect properties in that area. He explained the methodology used by Carter-Burgess was chosen by Carter-Burgess and would be a big deviation from the methodology used by the Corps. He further explained the Corps maps have been in place and altered over the years with 50 to 70 years worth of observed condition.

Chairman Street questioned whether Mr. Hooton felt the termination of the Carter-Burgess contract would jeopardize the City being able to comply with flood insurance. Mr. Hooton provided the committee with information regarding suspension and stated he only knows of two communities that have backed out of their flood maps and have been suspended by the NFIP. He stated he doesn't know if the City would be suspended, but it is something the City needs to check into before proceeding with terminating the contract. Chairman Street questioned whether FEMA would advise the City at Friday's meeting as to whether they would have a problem with the City terminating the contract. Mr. Hooton stated he hoped so.

City Engineer Kelly Panneck recommended adding a sixth section to the proposed resolution that would authorize the Floodplain Administrator to provide FEMA with digitized 1991 FIS maps. He stated it was his understanding that when the City started this process all FEMA asked for was digitized versions of the 1991 FIS maps. He explained he thinks they are still required to provide FEMA with digitized formats of those maps in order to comply. He noted that will show the City's intent to deliver what FEMA initially requested and to show that the methodology of the CTP is what the City has problems with.

Councilman Moore questioned if the City has had a history of the maps not being correct. Mr. Panneck stated not to his knowledge. He noted that the maps only address a certain specified area, which is why some areas that have recent flooding were not represented on the maps because of FEMA stipulations. Councilman Moore questioned whether the Corps maps are fairly accurate. Mr. Panneck stated yes. He added the problems the City sees for the most part are on a smaller scale, so they would not be reflected on most maps. Councilman Moore questioned whether the Corps methodology was used by Carter-Burgess to make their conclusions. Mr. Panneck stated the methodology employed by Carter-Burgess, while approved by FEMA, is not the same methodology employed by Corps. Discussion was held concerning the NEA Clinic property. Councilman Moore stated it seems odd to him that after 70 years for the City to change methodologies and have completely different results. He questioned Mr. Panneck's opinion of the Carter-Burgess study. Mr. Panneck stated he has some concerns with the methodology employed by Carter-Burgess as well as the results. He explained the question will be whether the City is willing to make that significant of an economic impact based on something they do not have a lot of confidence in and it varies from what they feel is a more accurate depiction of the Corps view of the floodplain. He also stated he has a high level of confidence in the Corps information. He further explained he is willing to make decisions based on the Corps maps, but is not willing to make decisions based on the maps made by Carter-Burgess. Councilman Moore questioned whether Mr. Hooton is confident with the Corps maps. Mr. Hooton stated to some extent they are accurate. He added there are some things that flooded out of their mapped area, but the eleven hot spots were all upstream of the one-acre mark to be a floodplain. Councilman Moore stated that in order for the City to change he would like to see some sort of evidence to show the current system does not work, is not accurate or is somehow flawed. Mr. Panneck also noted that if the City does decide to terminate the contract, there is still a very small portion of information from Carter-Burgess that is still useable. He added the City needs some sort of computer model in order for Engineering to make decisions on the best available data.

Mr. Panneck read the item 6 he recommended adding to the proposed resolution. Chairman Street noted that in the CTP agreement it has a statement allowing the City to terminate the agreement with a 60-day notice. He also discussed the changes Mayor Formon recommended, noting that Mayor Formon wanted the resolution to reflect his and his staff's endorsement.

Chairman Street questioned what Mr. Auld's opinion was on the Carter-Burgess maps. Mr. Auld stated he and the Corps had previously brought it to Carter-Burgess' attention that their maps had no ties to the City maps today. He explained the Corps has 70 years of observed history. He further explained he, as a reviewer, is not in agreement with the Carter-Burgess maps or study and disagreed with the methodology change. Councilman Moore questioned whether, in Mr. Auld's use of the maps, if he has ever encountered significant problems with the 1991 maps. Mr. Auld answered no.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, that this Resolution be Recommended to Council. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Chris Moore; Cecil Province and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Darrel Dover and Charles Frierson

COM-07:061 FEMA suspension information as handed out by Teddy Hooton at the October 31, 2007, special called Public Works meeting.

Attachments: [FEMA Suspension Information](#)

This item was Read.

3. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion CARRIED by a Voice Vote.

Aye: 3 - Chris Moore; Cecil Province and Mitch Johnson

Absent: 2 - Darrel Dover and Charles Frierson