

Mercer City Council Special Meeting August 25, 2014

The special meeting of the Mercer City Council was called to order by Mayor Kathy Schon with council members Randy, Joe and Steve present. Kathy welcomed and introduced Lyn Oberger from Mclean County Water Resource, Shannon Jeffers Mayor of Garrison, and Brock Storrusterr from Moore Engineering. Members of the community were also welcomed. The meeting was informational from the engineer on the City's options for the lagoon. The public then had a chance for a question and answer session.

Brock was recognized. As it stands now in his opinion the City's lagoon will not last as it is. It is a closed system that was built in low area with no natural outlet. The lagoon is saturated and inundated. The city needs to decide if it can invest money to fix or completely replace the system. As it stands now a lift station would be needed to move the water any distance.

There was discussion on fixing the lagoon as it stands, but it is already leaching since it was built without a clay liner. It could still be pumped out but it won't solve the issues for the future. Cell 2 needs to be bigger than cell 1 and right now we have the opposite. The water table is too high everywhere. The water table being high is the main problem for the landowners by the slough not the pumping of the lagoon to the slough. The initial study would be roughly \$10,000.00 to look into fixing the lagoon as is.

The agreement to pump onto the Hinz land was rejected as they were worried about the quality of the water and they are also saturated. The city was unhappy with the onetime pumping option and the liabilities issue.

The funding possibilities for moving the lagoon would be rural development grant at 15%. To even apply for a grant the City would need a preliminary engineer report at the cost of roughly \$30,000.00, but one could possibly incorporate that into the grant. Another option would be a state revolving loan at 2%. The city can also do a special assessment on taxes. If a sales tax would be an option the City would have to go to a Home Rule Charter. No FEMA money is available because it is all going to oil impact counties.

It was questioned if a city our size would be even able to get funding? The engineering company would help with getting the funding as they have helped other communities. If the city chooses to go for a grant they should also consider any other projects they would want done as that would all be included in the same price. It will take at least 3 years to fix the problem either way.

The community has to work together if we want to fix the problem since no one wants to be pumping in the next 25 years.

Another engineering company will be contacted for a second opinion.

Meeting adjourned.

JoLene Rust, Auditor