

Funding Committee Unapproved Minutes 5/20/2025

Members Present: Lisa Meyer, Jon Martin, Jack Moseley, Butch Higginbotham, Denecia Ramsey, Scott Staples, Jim Erwin

Members Absent: Phillip Partain

Staff Present: Mayor Treat, Ted Taylor, Tim Fournier, Rebecca Kidder, Joy Black, Moriah Winkel, Philip Plouch

Guests Present: Matt Compton, RJN & Dan Jackson from WilDan

Call to Order: 6:32 PM by Council Member Meyer

Approval of Minutes-April 3, 2025 Meeting - Motion by Scott Staples, 2nd by Jon Martin

Public Comments

- Shane Knight, President & CEO of Bryant Chamber - Spoke to the Stormwater issue; asked the Committee to consider two factors: if a rate adjustment is set, communicate that to businesses by September or earlier if possible; when implemented and notification is given, examine a tier system of implementation for commercial businesses—suggested the rates go up in 3 month increments; wants to sponsor a Chamber meeting with the businesses and the city to have one-on-one time with those business owners

New Business

- **Public Works**
 - Tim Fournier, Director, introduced Matt Compton from RJN and Dan Jackson from WilDan
 - Dan Jackson presented the draft Stormwater Rate Fee Structure and explained how their process worked. Key points included:
 - **Background:** The City of Bryant currently charges \$3/month for residential and \$6/month for non-residential stormwater services (senior citizens are exempt), which generates approximately \$300,000 annually—far below the amount needed to support stormwater operations and capital improvements.
 - **Unfunded Needs:** Over \$95 million in long-term stormwater capital improvements have been identified, including high-cost projects like

Boone Road at Hurricane Creek (\$24.7 million) and Cynamide Road at Hurricane Creek (\$16.1 million).

- **Methodology:** The study evaluated account growth, impervious surface area (ISA), projected costs, and bond funding plans (\$10 million in 2025 and \$11 million in 2027).

Rate Scenarios:

- **Scenario I (Status Quo):** Implements tiered non-residential rates based on ISA and increases residential rates to \$8/month by 2029.
 - **Scenario II (Status Quo + Seniors):** Includes senior accounts at the same rate as residential, with full implementation by 2029.
 - **Revenue Forecast:** Under Scenario I, the stormwater fund is projected to become self-sustaining by FY2027, with revenues covering both operational costs and debt service.
 - The presentation concluded with a recommendation to adopt a phased-in rate structure and continue planning for long-term financial stability of the Stormwater Utility.
- Stormwater Master Plan Projects and Priorities
 - Fournier explained that some projects have been added that were identified in-house
 - Discussion
 - Jim Erwin asked if there should be a consideration to increase the fees by a percentage after 2029 due to inflation
 - The committee discussed how they would implement a senior citizen fee, especially because of some of their fixed incomes, as they are currently exempt
 - Jim Erwin asked what percentage of our water customers are senior citizens—1,100
 - Compton said another option would be to start charging the stormwater fee for 65-year-olds first, then 66-year-olds the next year, and so on and so forth by year so they can prepare or give them a percentage discount so they don't pay the full
 - Meyer asked if nonprofits are included with the churches and schools—yes
 - Staples encouraged the committee to work with community engagement committee and take a few months for the Mayor and Council to go out in the community to communicate this fee change

- The Mayor discussed the Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Growth Plan, including asking residents what their priorities are via surveys in the next few months
- Fournier asked that the committee review the study + Stormwater Master Plan and come back in June with some recommendations for City Council
- Erwin would like to see the number of businesses per impervious surface range next meeting
- Taylor explained that a Workshop with City Council is on the Funding Committee timeline for the committee and City Council to discuss recommendations
- Staples asked that Stormwater staff identify projects in order of priority at next meeting
- Staples made a motion to recommend the Stormwater Master Plan to City Council for adoption, 2nd by Moseley, all in favor
- Mayor Comments
 - Mayor thanks everyone for their time and work

Adjournment: 7:48

Next meeting: June 5 at 6:00 PM in Conference Room