

## **Funding Committee Unapproved Minutes 7/24/2025**

**Members Present:** Lisa Meyer, Jon Martin, Jack Moseley, Butch Higginbotham, Denecia Ramsey, Scott Staples, Phillip Partain

**Staff Present:** Mayor Treat, Ted Taylor, Jordan Reynolds, Rebecca Kidder, Tim Fournier

**Guests Present:** Madison Basco, Saline Courier

**Call to Order:** 6:00 PM by Chairperson Meyer

**Approval of Minutes-May 20, 2025 Meeting** - Motion by Partain, second by Martin

### **Public Comments**

- None

### **New Business**

- **Fee Discussion**

- Mayor Treat provided an update:
  - Recapped the previous meeting's discussion of the Stormwater Master Plan & WilDan fee study
  - Explained that the city will have to wait on RFP results to determine the cost of initial stormwater projects, which will guide the fee structure
  - Reported on meetings with churches and businesses, noting the need to consider fee caps and a slower rollout
  - Recommended postponing any stormwater fee implementation until feedback is gathered from upcoming comprehensive growth plan process
  - Discussed Act 605 and community outreach strategy
- Tim Fournier shared updates on the Wastewater Master Plan
  - Staff have been reviewing Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
  - City staff narrowed the focus to what can be completed within 5 years, with in-house engineering covering an estimated 7% of project costs
  - Wastewater Master Plan will go to Water/Sewer Advisory Committee at August meeting, with the hope they will approve it to go on to City Council to be adopted in August

- Mayor Treat emphasized keeping CIP costs reasonable to avoid inflating future rates
  - Tim clarified that the existing \$15 infrastructure fee is designated for water/wastewater debt
  - Mayor Treat noted that a third draft of the stormwater rate model is expected to provide clearer rate projections
- Lisa Meyer gave update on town halls and ward meetings, noting they will probably not start until October
- Chamber, Business, and Church Engagement
  - Mayor Treat reported on recent meetings with the Chamber, business leaders, and church representatives:
    - There is concern about the jump from \$6/month (commercial) and \$3/month (residential) to projected higher rates
    - Senior citizens, currently exempt, are unlikely to support additional fees
    - Businesses raised concerns about increasing costs across the board
    - Churches indicated a willingness to pay something, but asked for a phased approach
    - Lisa Meyer noted positive feedback from community members who observed recent stormwater improvements following April rainfall
    - Scott Staples inquired about a database for public/private—staff confirmed one exists
- RFP for Basin Improvements and Repairs
  - Tim Fournier provided details on the upcoming RFP process:
    - Staff is mapping drainage pathways and reviewing easement access
    - Butch Higginbotham asked about accessing basins on private property—Tim noted that most POAs/HOAs do not want the responsibility
    - The City is exploring the total cost of assuming ownership and maintenance of all basins
    - Lisa Meyer inquired about how improvement districts would be included in the fee model—Tim said this would need further evaluation
    - Jon Martin asked if taxes from improvement districts would shift to the City if the basins are taken over—Tim deferred to legal counsel for clarification
    - Due to the need for on-site visits with potential vendors, the RFP process will be lengthy

- Mayor Treat stated that more detailed information will be brought back to the committee as available
- Scott Staples asked if water, wastewater, and stormwater fee proposals will reach Council simultaneously—Mayor Treat said water and wastewater could go to Council by the end of 2025, but stormwater may not be ready until 2027 or later

**Adjournment:** 6:42 motion by Partain, 2nd by Martin

**Next meeting:** August 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM in City Hall Conference Room