

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 10, 2010**

A special Rocky Mount Town Council meeting was held on May 10, 2010 in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding. The following members of Council were present:

Vice Mayor Posey W. Dillon and Council Members Jerry W. Greer, Sr., John H. Lester, Roger M. Seale, Robert W. Strickler and Gregory B. Walker

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

For the record, the following were present: All members of Town Council as noted, Town Manager C. James Ervin, Assistant Town Manager/Community Development Director Matthew C. Hankins, Superintendent of Water Department Robert Deitrich, Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant Timothy Burton, and Town Clerk Patricia H. Keatts.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Prior to the meeting, Council had received the agenda for review and consideration of approval.

- Motion was made by Vice Mayor Dillon to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Strickler and carried unanimously by those present.

PRESENTATION BY ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING FIRM REGARDING PIGG RIVER DAM MODIFICATION OPTIONS

The Town Manager recapped for Council briefly what the Town had previously done regarding the lower head dam at the Blackwater River dam. He stated that at the direction of Council, Mr. Chris Fewster with Anderson & Associates Engineering firm had conducted a study of the Pigg River dam safety improvements.

Mr. Chris Fewster with Anderson & Associates Engineering Firm came before Council, giving them an outline of his review of alternatives and issues, presenting several options:

Option 1 – Do nothing

1. Safety issue would still exist and potential for liability would remain.
2. No improvements for aquatic habitat (specifically mentioning the log perch).
3. No blueway passage improvement.

- 4. Continued erosion and sedimentation along stream banks, particularly between the dam and Furnace Creek.

Estimated cost for this option is zero dollars.

Option 2 – Modify Dam Face and Stabilize the Hydraulic

- 1. Face the dam with large stone, similar to Blackwater dam improvements, and grout stone in place to prevent it from “rolling” during high flows.
- 2. Possible notching of the dam face for improved blueway passage.
- 3. Potential for continued safety hazard at some river levels, particularly high flows.
- 4. Unknown benefits for aquatic habitat.
- 5. Additional stream evaluation and monitoring before and after construction would be necessary.
- 6. No financial assistance or project management from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), or its partners.

Estimated cost:

\$75,000	Construction (including stream bank stabilization)
\$7,500	Permit application
\$2,500	Stream survey, pre-construction (habitat identification)
<u>\$5,000 - \$10,000</u>	Per year, annual stream survey and water quality monitoring

Estimated total cost of \$110,000 to \$135,000

Option 3 – Remove Dam (as proposed by USFWS, Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) permit drafted)

- 1. Complete removal of the safety hazard.
- 2. Improved aquatic habitat.
- 3. Allows recreational passage on the blueway.
- 4. USFWS managed project.
- 5. No bank stabilization proposed.
- 6. No management of upstream sediment planned.
- 7. Landscaping/vegetative buffer not clearly identified.
- 8. Limited financial investment by Town, \$30,000, for removal of dam. Additional costs for bank stabilization and landscaping necessary.

Estimated cost:

\$76,750	Construction cost by USFWS
\$7,675	Contingency

Estimated total cost of \$84,425

Mr. Fewster brought to the attention of Council:

- Cost appear low for scope of work, estimated by local contractor at \$100,000, without tipping fees at landfill.

- Additional costs for stream bank stabilization, landscaping and vegetative buffer \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Fewster recommended the following to Council:

1. Partner with USFWS to remove the existing dam.
2. Provide legal review of agreement with USFWS, and clarify the following items:
 - a. Maximum out-of-pocket expense by the Town for dam removal is \$30,000.
 - b. Project management by USFWS.
 - c. Town responsibility for bank stabilization and vegetative buffer.
3. Amend the VMRC permit application to include the following items.
 - a. Downstream bank stabilization.
 - b. Restoration and vegetative buffer within the water way to stabilize sediment.

There was considerable discussion between the Town Manager, Council, and Mr. Fewster on which direction Council wanted to take regarding the options presented. The basic concerns from Council were:

- Clarification from USFWS that the Town's maximum amount of \$30,000 would be used for bank stabilization and vegetative buffer.
- Town could recreate water flowing sound, which could be reproduced by large rocks being placed in the stream.
- Construction access be tied-in with the path to Lynch Park.
- Make sure USFWS would be willing to make modifications to the permit that would be satisfactory to the Town.
- Use a local contractor to have the work done.

The Mayor requested that the Town Manager follow-up with USFWS regarding the questions and concerns Council had regarding the removal of the Pigg River dam, with the Town Manager stating that he would have it before them during the special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:47 p.m., motion was made by Vice Mayor Dillon to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Strickler and carried unanimously by those present.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia H. Keatts/Town Clerk

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