

**Open Work Session
City of Fruitland Water and Sewer Plan Amendment Request
March 5, 2019**

Mr. Dallas Baker, Director of Public Works, came before Council. He said this is a water and sewer amendment request from the Town of Fruitland. He said they currently are in the water and sewer amendment portion of the comprehensive plan, and they have approval to pull water out of the Columbia aquifer, but they want to switch that over to the Manokin aquifer, and also increase their appropriation permit. He said this has been before Council previously in draft form, and also was sent to the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) in draft form. He said MDE has looked it over and approved it, so, if Council approves it, the next step is to forward the minutes from the approval to MDE and the Maryland Department of Planning for the final formal approval, and send it back to the County.

Mr. Cannon asked if the project summary from the City of Fruitland was suggesting there was TCE in the Columbia aquifer. Ms. Katherine McAllister of George, Miles and Buhr then came before Council and said the Morris Mill area borders Fruitland, and the TCE was in the Columbia aquifer in that area, but all of the studies suggested that it is moving in the opposite direction of the Fruitland water plant. She said Fruitland has been looking to put a new well in for years, and when the Morris Mill issue came about, they moved it from the Columbia aquifer to the Manokin just to be safe. She clarified, they will still operate the Columbia wells, and they test it quarterly and have never had it come through. Mr. Cannon asked if it is just isolated, to which Ms. McAllister responded, the pond between them and the Morris Mill Pond is causing it not to come over toward the Fruitland area. Mr. Cannon asked, out of curiosity, is there a higher iron content in the Manokin aquifer than in the Columbia aquifer, to which Ms. McAllister responded, yes, but there are filter systems. She said it just, actually, hit underneath 5, which is okay, so they can use their current filter systems. Mr. Dodd said it is bad down in that area, especially around the Eden area, to which Ms. McAllister responded, it went up from probably an average of 2 to 5. Mr. Dodd asked if their filtering will clear it out, to which Ms. McAllister responded, yes. Mr. Dodd said some of the residents there had Culligan, and it was not really clearing it, to which Ms. McAllister responded, they have a large high pressure unit that clears it out.

Mr. Cannon said it says the City does not intend to increase their appropriation permit to draw more water, to which Ms. McAllister responded, that got revised. She said, originally, they were not going to, and then that was one of the things added. She clarified, they are not increasing their appropriations in the Columbia aquifer. She said they will end up having an entirely different appropriations permit when they go to a different aquifer, so they will have an appropriation for Manokin, and combined it is increasing their appropriations between the two permits, but the Columbia permit will stay as is.


Mr. Cannon asked Mr. Baker what the next step is, to which Mr. Baker responded, it will get forwarded to a Legislative Session Agenda item to get approval. Mrs. Hurley clarified, it, actually, requires a Public Hearing, and it has to be advertised two times, so they can have that on April 2, 2019. There was no further discussion.

Signatures on next page


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John T. Cannon, President




Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3




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Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator