

**Open Work Session
September 3, 2019
Coty Cox Drainage Cleanup Project**

Mr. Dallas Baker, Director of Public Works, came before Council and said this is a request from Public Works to reallocate funding that was available for drainage improvements and was initially put into the contractual services account for Roads for FY19 by Council. He said it was roughly an extra \$70,000 with the intention to be used towards drainage projects, and they have been using those funds to design and permit the Coty Cox cleanup. He reported, the plans were finalized in December of 2018 and sent in for permits, but they did not get the last one from the Army Corp of Engineers until June 24, 2019, and they need all those permits in place before they can bid the project out. He explained, they have to bid the project for at least 20 days, but they got it on June 24, which was six days before the fiscal year ended, so the funds went back into the account where unspent money goes, but he is not familiar with what that specific account is. He said the plans are ready, so they are asking to have those funds reallocated to the same account they allocated it to in 2019, but this time for FY20, and then they can get this project bid out, and get that branch cleaned up to start improving some drainage in the County.

Mr. Cannon asked if they have pursued any type of funding from the State for this, to which Mr. Baker responded, no, not for this particular project. He explained, most of the grant funds they have been applying for have been for some of the phased improvements associated with the Pratt Road project.

Mr. Cannon said he gets mixed up with the WIP program. He then asked if the funding spent on this applies towards their WIP program at all, to which Mr. Baker responded, no. He explained, this is not a WIP project, but is strictly going in and cleaning out the debris, the downed trees, and that kind of thing to improve the flow. He said through the Coty Cox Branch south of Morris they have seen a lot of obstructions to the flow pathway, such as box springs, shopping carts, and downed trees, so the intention is to pull that stuff out of the way to clear the pipes out so that, when they get these heavy rains, the water is not being dammed up behind these obstructions and flooding people's homes.

Mr. Strausburg, Director of Administration, came to the podium and said, as a point of clarification, the only way to transfer the funds if they wish to transfer the funds is to move the funds out of contingency because, when the year-end closed out, they could not encumber those funds for the reason Mr. Baker gave Council, so that money is going to revert to the fund balance. He said, if they want to act on this now, the money would have to come out of the 2019 contingency account [FY20 budget].

Mr. Cannon asked if the \$7,400 that it says has been spent of the project is part of the \$79,370, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes. He said his understanding is that the additional \$79,000 was put in at the beginning of FY19, and the \$7,400 represents the cost for the design and the permitting for the project. Mr. Cannon asked if at the end of that fiscal year they had \$72,000, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes.

Mr. Dodd said the stuff they are taking out of there are mattresses, whatever garbage there is, and grocery carts, and he knows Mr. Davis has been involved in the cleanup efforts, and he knows this has been going on for 15 to 20 years. He then asked what measures are being taken to try to prevent people from using this as a dump, to which Mr. Baker responded, nothing that is involved with this project, and he does not have a solution preventing people from doing that. Mr. Dodd said the County is going to have to keep doing this and keep cleaning it up, to which Mr. Davis responded, most of Coty Cox runs behind residents, so most of it is downed trees, as Mr. Baker said. He said most of the debris is down on the end of the street by the church, but most of that is downed trees in the ditches, so a lot of it is not trash. Mr. Dodd said he knows they cleaned up a lot of trash out of there in the past, to which Mr. Cannon responded, he spent a full day there with Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes and probably about

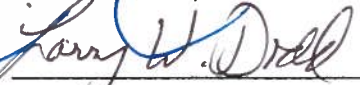
30 or 40 other people, and Public Works was there with their vehicles, and they spent a whole day cleaning that place up. Mr. Davis said, once the County goes through and cleans it up, the intention is for the community to do another cleanup around there. Mr. Cannon said Mr. Dodd made a really good point, and it would be nice to have some structures in place in coordination with the City where they try to do something to keep people from throwing stuff in there in the future because it is a heavily flooded area. He said he knows with one storm a couple years ago the whole area was completely flooded.

Mr. Taylor said, just to follow up on what Mr. Strausburg said, he thinks this would take a budget amendment for the 2020 budget to get it in, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, it would just need a Resolution to transfer the money from contingency to this project. Mr. Taylor said he would think it would go into the 2020 budget, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, they generally just do a Resolution authorizing the transfer. Mrs. Hurley clarified, she thinks what he is saying is he wants to use FY19 contingency, and that would be done by Resolution. Mr. Cannon said he gets confused with this sometimes, and wonders why they would not just take it from FY20 contingency.

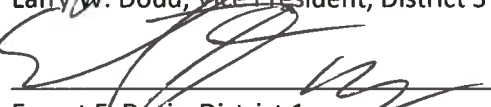
Mrs. Acle asked if Mr. Baker has looked into any of the Rural Infrastructure grants the EPA has, to which Mr. Baker responded, not for this project. He said they get regular emails from several of the funding agencies, such as MDE and EPA, and from the Governor's Office regarding funds available, so they are always applying for grants. He said the one he thinks she is talking about is the Rural Development through the USDA, which he believes is more for the construction of water and sewer, but it might have a stormwater component that he can check into. Mrs. Acle clarified, this one is through the EPA, to which Mr. Baker responded, he can certainly take a look at that. There was no further discussion.



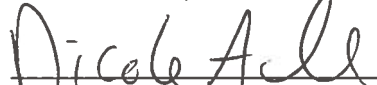
John T. Cannon, President



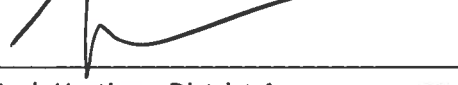
Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3




Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Nicole Acle, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator