

**Open Work Session  
Council Discussion on Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2026  
February 16, 2021**

Mrs. Pam Oland, Director of Finance, and Mr. John Psota, Acting County Executive, came before Council.

Mrs. Acle said she noticed a few things she wanted to point out. She said Barren Creek is not in fiscal year 2023 and it has been taken off the MS4 project for 2022, so she is questioning how that dropped off or why the priority changed. Mrs. Oland responded, it is under Public Works line R8 on page 7 for 2023. She said it is not in the budget for 2022 at this point in time, but it is listed for \$1.4 million in 2023.

Mrs. Hurley asked if Barren Creek is still an MS4 project, to which Mrs. Oland responded, she cannot answer that part of the question, but they allocate \$500,000 for MS4 projects, and if there are specific projects that end up costing more than \$500,000, they may spill out on their own. She said, if this one classifies as MS4, it would be an additional funding beyond the \$500,000 they are asking for in MS4 because there are some projects that cost more than just the annual \$500,000 allotment for MS4.

Mr. Holloway asked why Barren Creek keeps getting pushed back. He said this has been going on for about eight or ten years, but it keeps getting bumped back, to which Mrs. Oland responded, it is a costly project and through discussions the consensus has been that there are other projects that are higher priority at this point in time than that road. Mr. Holloway said he guesses that depends on where you live, to which Mrs. Oland responded, she gets that, but, again, as they have talked about limited funding sources in a lot of different ways at a lot of different times when she has been sitting before Council, in their discussions with that Department, the decision was made at this point in time that the funding was not available for 2022.

Mr. Dodd said he sees it in fiscal year 2023 for \$1.4 million, to which Mrs. Oland responded, that is currently where it is placed. Mr. Dodd asked if Mrs. Oland is saying that, if something with a higher priority comes along, it would bump this project again, to which Mrs. Oland responded, there is that possibility.

Mrs. Acle asked what the estimated cost of this project to date is because she knows it has continued to grow, to which Mrs. Oland responded, they have paid about \$850,000 currently for that project, and they are looking at another \$1.4 million dollars.

Mr. Dodd asked if that road is still closed, as he has not been down there in a while, to which Mrs. Oland responded, yes. Mr. Davis said you cannot drive through there without a bridge. Mr. Dodd said the last time he went down there was probably in 2018 or 2019, and it was closed then.

Mr. McCain said Council has had meetings regarding at some point embarking on County public sewer in some capacity, which obviously is going to cost money, and he certainly understands the challenges they have that at this moment they do not know what it is going to cost, and they have not established a plan yet. He said the CIP is their five-year capital improvement plan, so it takes them through 2026, so he is certainly anticipating they are going to be initiating that in some kind of capacity in these next five years. He clarified, he knows it is a challenge to pick a number when they do not have a plan yet, to which Mrs. Oland responded, that is one thing they have not done with this CIP. She explained, they could list a lot of projects that are on the horizon but do not yet have any idea of cost, but putting them on the CIP

Mr. Dodd asked if Mrs. Oland can think of any other projects on the horizon that do not yet have a figure, to which Mrs. Oland responded, not off the top of her head. Mr. Dodd said it would be nice to know. Mrs. Oland clarified, that does not mean that there are not any, she just cannot come up with one at this moment, and she will look at that concept for future CIPs. Mr. Holloway said he is sure some of the seven Councilmembers could find some.

Mrs. Acle said she has a few questions on school construction at Westside Intermediate. She said, in 2020 it was a \$281,000 State project and then in 2021 it was a \$281,000 County project, but now for 2022 it is a \$1.7 million dollar County project and the State has deferred it. Mrs. Oland responded, for a lot of these renovation type projects, her understanding is that the State has said that those are not really projects they are going to fund. Mr. Davis said they backed out of it. Mrs. Oland explained, they have engineering costs and that kind of stuff, so those funds Mrs. Acle was talking about were some early costs that they have paid. She said the term the Board of Education uses for these types of projects is systematic upgrades. She said part of the reason why this project came on is because the State has basically said that when they are upgrading HVACs, roofs, or systems within the building that are upgrades, right now the State is not looking at participating in the funding of those. Mrs. Acle said that is a pretty big jump from \$281,000 to \$1.7 million, to which Mr. Davis responded, that is because at first the State was funding it, but then when they backed out the County had to fund the full amount.

Mrs. Acle said she saw there were quite a few special initiatives for HVAC systems, and they definitely need to be replaced, but would the COVID relief package cover any of the air quality HVAC systems, to which Mrs. Oland responded, she does not have an answer to that question. Mr. Davis said he does not think so because the County is required to be responsible for the upgrades of these systems.

Mr. Cannon said he does not think there is any mention of retiring debt. He clarified, normally in the introduction when they talk about general debt obligation there has been a mention of retiring debt, but he does not think there was anything in here suggesting how much debt the County is retiring this year. Mrs. Oland responded, the County is paying off debt this year and in out years. She said part of the reason they have the available debt limit they do is that 2022 is a big year of payments, and that is what she talked about when she presented the financial forecast. She said 2022 and she believes 2023 have a pretty good payoff, but then some of the debt kind of levels off, so they do not have a lot of payoff in the 2024-2025 timeframe. Mr. Cannon clarified, he did not expect it now, but could Mrs. Oland get that for Council, to which Mrs. Oland responded, it will be part of the budget information Council receives.


Mr. Cannon said this suggestion is for both Mrs. Oland and Mr. Psota. He explained, as far as moving forward with changes in procedures for the CIP, he would love to see a breakdown of projects that get canceled. He said, for example, the last time Barren Creek was in the CIP was 2018, if he is not mistaken. He said, when Council looks at the CIP, they do not necessarily know what happened to the Westside collector road, or they do not know what happened to Barren Creek, so maybe to change procedures from here on out, when a new CIP is presented each year, there could be a section that explains projects that were canceled and projects that were moved forward. He clarified, he does not want them to get into a minutia of detail, but just give Council an idea. Mrs. Oland suggested she could expand on the concept she stated earlier where they give a list of projects that might be on the horizon that do not have a dollar amount yet, and projects that at this point in time they have kind of taken off the horizon, to which Mr. Cannon responded, exactly. He said, when Council says they are going to approve \$400,000

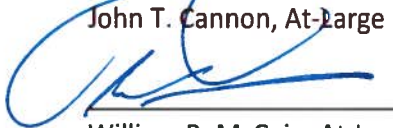
about a way to possibly show how the ones above add to the funding source below. She said, having lived the life of the Recreation, Parks and Tourism, she knows that on page 8 the Cedar Hill Marina Park Restoration at \$250,000 is 100 percent grant funded that they are looking for. She said it is down in that \$754,000 grant, but Council cannot see that from this document, so she will think about a way to show that in future CIPs. Mr. Dodd said, when he looks at it, it looks like it is coming out of the general fund.

There was no further discussion.

  
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Larry W. Dodd, President, District 3

  
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Joe Holloway, Vice President, District 5

  
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John T. Cannon, At-Large

  
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William R. McCain, At-Large

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Ernie Davis, District 1

  
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Nicole Aale, District 2

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Josh Hastings, District 4

  
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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator