

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH CITY COMMISSION**  
**JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING – SEWER PLANT OPERATION**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 2010 1:30 p.m. City Hall Conference Room**

The Joint Workshop Meeting of the Key Colony Beach City Commission and Utility Board was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mayor Sutton. *Present were:* Mayor Ron Sutton, Vice-Mayor Geraldine Zahn, Commissioner Jeff Vorick, Commissioner Seneca “Tucker” DeGraw and Commissioner Mary Schmidt. *Utility Board Present:* Chair Glenda Keach, Joe Schmidt, Tom Moore, Eric Larsson, Steve Flood; and Sewer Plant Operator David Evans. *Also Present:* Utility Board Clerk Pat Britske and City Clerk Vickie Bollinger. Public: 2

Mayor Sutton stated the joint workshop meeting of the City Commission and Utility Board was called to review and discuss the current contract with Synagro and the possibility of allowing US Water to assume the contract and operate the sewer plant. He gave a brief description of recent events regarding Synagro selling all Keys assets and accounts to US Water and the emergency meeting held on February 25 with representatives of Synagro and US Water to discuss the contract and future operation of the plant.

Commissioners and Utility Board commented and discussed:

- Concern about going out for bid and possibly ending up paying higher fees than we are now.
- If we allow US Water to assume the contract, and it does not work out, the city can still terminate the agreement with a 60 day notice.
- FKAA was asked to review the contract and provide an estimate for FKAA to operate the plant. This will not be completed anytime soon, but was done for future consideration.
- FKAA does operate other sewer plants throughout the Keys, but these are owned by FKAA; they do not have a contract operation similar to the city’s arrangement.
- FKAA is a first class operation and may have first class fees.
- FKAA offered to operate the Marathon plants.
- There aren’t many choices right now, but once all the Keys have sewers, other companies may see an opportunity and provide options and competition that will benefit the city.
- US Water representatives have been professional and tried to be helpful and willing to work with the city in whatever ways the city wants. They have a good positive attitude and are working to create a positive working relationship with the city.
- If the city agrees to hire US Water to operate the plant, they will conduct a survey and identify any maintenance or improvements needed as well as possible cost savings.
- Analysis showed that US Water is very capable and competitive.
- The City of Marathon’s contract with US Water requires monthly written maintenance reports. This type of report will be of use to the city to document maintenance and plan for future maintenance needs at our plant.
- US Water has a computer program for tracking maintenance and this has already been discussed for use at our sewer plant.
- Our plant has a permitted capacity of 340,000 gallons per day, but we only use about 220,000. The plant was designed and rated for 440,000. The heaviest use is in the summer after rain storms due to the amount of infiltration. The program to have all connections inspected and fixed was implemented to address this problem.
- The plant has started to implement the 2010 requirements, but it does not meet them yet. US Water has experience in helping plants to get in compliance and their experience will benefit us.

- There are on-going legal discussions about compliance dates. The laws may change, but it's too early in the process to know what, if any, effect this will have for us.
- We should keep the current contract to protect costs. It seems that US Water would be a good fit.
- The biggest asset of US Water is Plant Operator Dave Evans. He has worked with our plant for over 30 years and his knowledge and experience are valuable.
- US Water executives have indicated that the plant has been well run at a low cost.
- We know what it costs to run our plant and changing contractors should not change the costs significantly. We should ask for justification for any price increase.
- US Water has several operations throughout the Keys and Mr. Evans will have more time to be at our plant. US Water's main business is sewer plant operations.

Charles Korpak, 5<sup>th</sup> Street, said that "in compliance" can mean different things to different people, but it means that all new construction is connected to the city sewer system. He suggested all commissioners and utility board members take classes in sewer operation, that preventative maintenance programs be conducted, and that these programs be audited to be sure they are completed and done well. He said the recent repair for \$30,000 was unacceptable, half of that amount should be refunded to the city by Synagro, and the commission should spend more wisely. Mayor Sutton stated the entire commission approved the expenditure to make repairs at the sewer plant, the repair and costs have been discussed on several occasions, and it is not relevant to today's meeting.

Mr. Korpak stated he had several more questions related to operation of the sewer plant. Mayor Sutton suggested he submit those in writing and staff would try to answer. Mr. Korpak agreed.

Mayor Sutton stated that it seemed that everyone was thinking similarly about the contract and working with US Water. However, he asked everyone to continue thinking about all the options. The Utility Board will meet on March 16 and hopefully will come to a consensus and make a recommendation to the city commission. He said he would provide a summary of today's meeting at the regular commission meeting tomorrow and then put this issue on the agenda for the March 25, 2010 meeting. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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Vickie L. Bollinger, City Clerk

Note: A mechanical recording has been made of the meeting of which these minutes are a part, and a copy is on file in the office of the City Clerk, as a public record.