City moves forward with Magnolia project

By TYLER H. JONES tjones@thebrunswicknews.com 13 hrs ago

Brunswick City Commissioners voted Wednesday to begin the engineering phase of a project aimed at improving roadway and drainage conditions in the Magnolia Park neighborhood.

Commissioners voted unanimously to hire Brunswick-based EMC Engineering Services to survey underground utility locations, perform topographic studies and other related surveys.

The city and Brunswick Glynn County Joint Water and Sewer Commission are jointly conducting the project and in this phase will split EMC’s fee of $117,050 equally.

City Engineer Garrow Alberson told commissioners EMC is ready to begin “as early as Monday” on the work.

In a related matter, city commissioners also approved an intergovernmental agreement with JWSC to perform the work. The agreement lays out the terms of the engineering phase, and ensures each body is responsible for paying half of the cost. Payments in later phases of the project, such as design and construction, will be structured in different ways, depending on which entity is responsible for which work, Alberson said.

Commissioners also agreed to amend a contract with Mansfield Street project contractor J.S. Stone Construction of Brunswick. The contractor has been working on the project for more than two years, and the project has experienced a ballooning budget as new problems were found during its construction.
Stone Construction had requested the city pay about $429,000 in project cost overruns, but the city agreed to pay $196,000. Commissioners declined to pay the additional cost of hauling away concrete that was discovered underground during the project, which had previously been unknown.

City commissioners also unexpectedly deferred action regarding the implementation of new zoning laws for U.S. Highway 17 and surrounding areas. The new rules, outlined under the Glynn Avenue Design Framework, would affect development along U.S. 17 from the Sidney Lanier Bridge to Golden Isles Parkway.

The action was deferred to June 20 at the request of Commissioner Johnny Cason, with Commissioner Julie Martin offering a second to his motion. All commissioners voted in favor of the deferment. Cason said he needed more time to consider the framework.

The matter at hand would have scrapped existing code sections and replaced them with new language.

Perhaps the most substantial change would be the action’s new guidance on how U.S. 17 should look and feel to people passing through.

In May 2016, the city, in conjunction with Savannah-based planning firm Symbioscity held a series of listening sessions to hear what local residents wanted U.S. 17 — also called Glynn Avenue — to become.

It’s primary goals are to “create a sense of place, incubate incremental development (and) provide a nimble framework for organic, predictable growth,” the document states.

The framework, if passed, would impact everything from storefronts to stormwater, and aims to provide mixed residential and commercial usage, pedestrian friendly roadways, codified building code and sustainable building practices.
Enclosure 4
By TYLER H. JONES tjones@thebrunswicknews.com  Apr 18, 2018

Enclosure 6
Apr 18, 2018

Glynn Avenue Design Framework
Apr 18, 2018

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