

**DeFuniak Springs City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
February 20, 2025**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bob Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Bob Campbell; Mayor Pro-Tempore Todd Bierbaum (Seat 1); Councilmember Josh Sconiers (Seat 2); Councilmember Amy Heavilin (Seat 3); Councilmember Glen Harrison (Seat 4); Councilmember Anothly Vallee (Seat 5).

Absent:

Also, present were City Manager Koby Townsend, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Interim Finance Director Danielle McDaniel, and City Clerk Rafael Ali.

2. WATER AND WASTEWATER SCADA DISCUSSION/DIRECTION

Mr. Townsend presented on the City SCADA issues.

Mr. Townsend stated that in 2023 the city went out to bid for SCADA.

Mr. Townsend stated that the council approved to award to Enlighten.

Mr. Townsend stated that Mr. Monroe has noticed things within the system that didn't make sense.

Mr. Townsend stated that they had Hydro Service come out and help us understand what is going on with our system.

Mr. Townsend stated that Mr. Holder mentioned a problem that other cities around the state have had with Enlighten.

Mr. Townsend stated that we have two issues, which is the water system and the sewer system.

Mr. Townsend stated that the SCADA system is integrated into our water system. Mr. Townsend stated that the SCADA helps the pump and tower put pressure through the system to move water.

Kyle Monroe with Jacobs stated that the SCADA system in 5 and 6 is out.

Mr. Monroe stated that he wasn't aware that the other systems were wired like that.

Mr. Monroe stated that it is going to take a while for him to figure out how it is wired.

Mr. Townsend stated that since we have our SCADA down, we will have to manually check our systems to ensure that they are good.

Mr. Townsend stated that Hydra Services presented an amount of \$35,000 not to exceed to get all 5 wells connected and automated.

Mayor Campbell asked if we have any obligations with the current provider.

Mr. Townsend answered that he is not aware of any contract we signed with Enlighten.

Mr. Townsend stated that as of today, we have paid Enlighten \$149,190.43.

Mr. Townsend stated that we have a monthly data plan with them and they didn't bill us until August.

Mr. Townsend stated that there are certain things with that company that are uncommon.

Mr. Townsend explained that we are not the only ones with that issue and he believes we should solve this issue.

Steven Kikler, a representative of Hydro Link, explained the SCADA system.

Mr. Kikler stated that the \$35,000 is to get the 5 well sites up and running and communicating.

Mr. Bierbaum asked if the \$35,000 will include rewiring the wells that are currently unable to be controlled.

Mr. Bierbaum asked what does Hydro Link do if we are in possession of VT SCADA.

Mr. Kikler explained how the SCADA system works with the VT SCADA system.

Mr. Bierbaum stated his concern about the SCADA system being compromised.

Mr. Bierbaum stated that he was assured that our SCADA system was a monitor-only system.

Mrs. Heavilin asked what are remedies for these kinds of situations and if we contacted authorities at the state level.

Mr. Adkinson stated that seeking adjudication is not where we need to go.

Mr. Adkinson stated that he is concerned that this is beyond civil misconduct.

Mr. Adkinson stated that he has concerns that this is fraudulent activity.

Mr. Adkinson stated that he can't talk about this currently.

Mr. Adkinson stated that he will talk to each council member individually with regards to this matter.

Mr. Bierbaum stated that he was led to believe years ago that the SCADA system was a monitor only system.

Mr. Bierbaum stated that we may have to separate the SCADA system.

Mr. Bierbaum stated that it alarms him that there is a portion of our SCADA system out there.

Mr. Bierbaum stated that we need to think this through.

Jim Moore, branch manager with Hydro Service, stated that they are still trying to get the SCADA technician on the phone to get some of their questions answered.

Mr. Moore stated that the difference between Hydro Link and other systems is that we are on the Internet of Things.

Mr. Moore stated that the way we communicate makes the concern that Mr. Bierbaum has more of an external concern.

Mr. Moore stated that this is the same protocol that Amazon, CSX Railways, oil and gas use and has not been hacked by anyone.

Mr. Adkinson stated that he advises that they speak to the individual council members about this.

Mr. Sconiers stated that he was taught for years that SCADA systems were typically offline systems to ensure the integrity of what they are trying to protect.

Mr. Sconiers stated that monitoring is understandable, but control is something else.

Mr. Moore stated that we are only talking about monitoring.

Mr. Moore stated that the only control we have is the wheel auto work-off.

Mr. Moore stated that is currently what we have now.

Mr. Bierbaum asked if we can take the two wells and make them operate like the rest of the wells.

Mr. Monroe stated that the previous company, instead of putting new equipment that the council paid for, they tied it to the old radio system.

Mr. Monroe stated that this has affected Lift Stations 2 and 7 because they still have the towers.

Mr. Monroe stated that they also piggybacked off the old crystal balls units.

Mr. Townsend asked if their system is going to address their concerns about the system being monitoring only.

Mr. Moore stated that it will be monitoring only.

Mr. Townsend stated that Mr. Monroe has gone through and found every lift station to see if it is reporting or not.

Mr. Sconiers asked if the \$35,000 is just for the wells.

Mr. Townsend answered yes.

Mr. Townsend stated that if those monitors go down, we will have to go on a manual monitoring system.

Mayor Campbell asked what is staff recommendation? Mr. Townsend answered that his recommendation is to approve in the amount not to exceed \$35,000 for Hydro Service to put our 5 wells on the system, and the city will have ownership of it.

Mr. Bierbaum asked to include in that that city employees get trained for that too.

Mr. Sconiers asked where the funding for this is coming from.

Mr. Townsend stated that in this budget, we separated capacity fees — it gets split up to 25% operating and 75% reserves.

Mr. Townsend stated that in that fund, there is \$37,200 in the operating line item, which is water.

Mr. Adkinson stated that we can use either one of the buckets.

Mr. Townsend stated that in sewer, we currently have 25% as \$21,596.10 and 75% as \$64,788.25.

A motion was made to go with staff's recommendation to use \$35,000 for Hydro Service to put our 5 wells on the system, and to have training provided to city employees on the system by Councilmember Heavilin and seconded by Councilmember Bierbaum; the motion passed without objection.

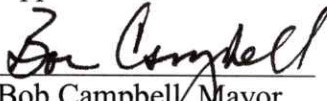
Mr. Bierbaum asked what the turn around on this. Mr. Moore stated that we can get this completed inside of the next two weeks and start immediately.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

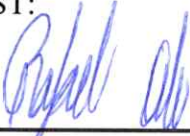
4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned 4:31 PM.

Approved:


Bob Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Minutes taken by Rafael Ali
City Clerk

Proper notice having been duly given

