

**Public Works Commission
Annual Strategic Planning Retreat
February 9-10, 2012**

Report: Angie Hedgepeth
Governmental Affairs Consultant FRAR/HBAF

Present: PWC Commission,
Wade Fowler - City Council Liaison
Kristoff Bauer - City Assistant Manager
Kenneth Edge - County Commissioner Liaison

What Happened: Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc. is a consulting organization that specializes in team building, strategic planning and goal setting for local governments.

The following goals were discussed by the Commission for the 2012/13 year.

Goals for 2012:

Progress Energy/Duke Energy Contract
Rate Stabilization

Commissioner Union - "They (public) have no idea how the utility did to handle rates."

Higher level of service - ebill

Decreased customer service wait times

Relining mains - water/sewer

Social Media

Smart Grid Initiative

Annexation - water/sewer

Strong core businesses

Top quality work force

Visionary - working relationship with the city and governmental bodies

Feb. 24th - parking deck opens

phase 5 projects

well water

Navigate

street lights

Councilman Fowler - "The issue is that the Commission is suppose to have the best interest of the city and some council do not feel like you do."

Commissioner Lallier - "You're talking about the Riddle property annexation. We had to follow policy. We are not trying to fight. We feel like we've been thrown under the bus."

Fowler - "We are definitely not there yet. We need a joint session with the Council & Commission."

Lallier - "Example is Baywood point...the Council had issues and how it interacted with policy. Regarding Texfi solar panels, we signed a letter of intent October 1, 2010. Communication is a two way street."

Commissioner Lacy - "Go back to debt load from phase 5 annexation. We (PWC) is going to be in debt for 40 years."

Lyle Sumek - "Developing a growth plan for the MIA. That is a good example to commonly work on."

Commissioner Union - "I didn't know a change in annexation policy the city was considering."

Opportunities:

Hopper plant, solar partnerships, green city, smart grid, collaboration with County for economic development

Lallier - "Strike sewer that's were trouble starts. We need countywide water and how can we assist to rural standards not city. People with tainted well water...we have a moral obligation. It doesn't mean urban services in the county."

Threats:

Military cut backs - spending reductions

Way to support growth in the military

Global economy

Increase of collection of debt

rates/personal income

Increase in operating cost - chemicals and raw materials

Increase in bid prices

Aging infrastructure

Hopper plant

Core businesses

Money for community projects

Focusing on needs of the city/county

Government regulations - state and federal requirements

Water supply - changes by State

Mick Noland (PWC) - "In 2009 legislation passed and mandates regulating river basins be modeled by hydraulic means to find deficiencies....and how much should be permitted. Right now we are permitted 90 million gallons but it may be reduced by the State. We provide grow rates to the State and the State has to agree or we have to debate. This could be a significant impact on us. What is the minimal amount of water you leave in a stream? There is a debate on how you arrive at that number. The Cape Fear River is the biggest river in North Carolina. We need to be looking ahead at this."

Lallier - "When will you know?"

Noland - "It's hard to say...one more year at least."

Steve Blanchard (CEO PWC) - "Legislatively, it will not be handled in the short session this year...it's too controversial."

Action Items/New Initiatives for 2012 from each PWC Commissioner:

Commissioner Lallier - expand core businesses, increase market share

Commissioner Union - limited impact with the Progress Energy/Duke Power contract, prepayment plan for services (people with credit risk), feasibility study for land adjacent to the PWC building

Commissioner Lacy - better relationship with City, Navigate project, jobs

What's Next:

Regular PWC meeting - February 22, 2012