

Hart fields complaints on trash, mowing, signs

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for a part-time code enforcement officer.

Last week, Hart reported the city's new wastewater superintendent began work Monday, adding that the city was setting up interviews with two applicants for its vacant water plant superintendent post.

Those two positions have been vacant since mid-March following the resignation of Water Plant Superintendent Jerald "JL" Lee, who turned in his two-week notice on March 1 after four years of dedicated service to the city, including five months pulling double duty and overseeing both the city's water and wastewater treatment plant while the city's wastewater treatment plant supervisor was out on leave due to illness.

At its upcoming May 9 meeting, the city council is scheduled to interview two applicants for its vacant city attorney position, including local attorney Charita Hope Demps and C. Jackson Latner of Plano, Texas.

According to Hart, the city recently filled a sanitation truck driver position and is accepting applications for code enforcement officer.

However, after initially advertising internally, the city has not made a move to fill one of its top administrative level positions - public works director - choosing instead to absorb those duties internally with supervisors and crew leaders over each department (water, wastewater, gas, solid waste, street and parks/recreation).

At the city's most recent meeting, Woodfaulk presented a list of concerns from her district and questioned who was in charge of holding various departments accountable for certain tasks that were previously handled by the public works director.

"I will be emailing you the list, but why has trash not been picked up in Zone 4 in the last two months?" Woodfaulk asked. "I saw the guys picking up litter on the side of the road yesterday, but the right of ways have not been mowed, and the yard debris, trash, junk items, mattresses, leaves and limbs have not been picked up."

Public Works Department Secretary - Dispatcher Danielle Ondash explained that the crews were still working their way around the city picking up white goods (refrigerators, furniture, etc.) and had not made it through Zone 4 yet, adding, "They are still working on it. Sometimes it takes 3-4 days to get all those junk items picked up."

Ondash said City

Sanitation Department crews were also running behind on picking up yard debris, adding, "They are working overtime on that." "They have got to make it a priority to get over there, because I am getting fussed at," Woodfaulk stated.

"So, is there any accountability...Is anyone checking behind them to make sure that these things are being done?"
- Councilwoman Venita Woodfaulk

"I'd like to educate everybody - on what happens constantly up and down my road - and that is separating yard trash from white goods. They have to stop and separate it out, and it takes a long time," Councilman Ward Ketring said. "I don't know how we educate people on that. I'm afraid it will get to the point where it all is going to end up in the regional landfill together and we are going to end up having to go up on the tipping fee prices because the limbs and leaves has other things mixed in with it."

"If you could figure out how to do that, you would be a multi, multi billionaire," Councilman Bill Brynes said.

"The guys were out yesterday picking up litter, but how is it going on the right-of-way mowing?" Woodfaulk asked.

Ondash said city inmate work crews work "in a circle" mowing around the city continuously.

"They cleaned Thomas Demps Lane, but they did not go any further. Zone 4 has not been cleaned," Woodfaulk stated. "I am going to come take you (Hart) for a ride. I invite any of you to take a ride in Zone 4 and see what I am talking about."

"It is the same thing in my zone," Councilwoman Diane Landry stated.

"Everywhere," Brynes commented.

"John, I think you may want to consider doing something different, because this has not really worked out that well to me," Mayor Shirlee Hampton commented.

"If it was up to me, we would not pick up big items," Hart replied. "You would haul your own big items away if it was up to me, and we (city) would pick up what is in your garbage can and yard debris only."

"That is not really an answer either," Landry interjected. "If I buy a new sofa and want it delivered, and they are not going to pick the old sofa up, what am I supposed to do with it? They may set it out front for me, but that is it."

City Finance Director Penny Staffney reminded the council that McAfee had ordered two new knuckle boom loader trucks to help city crews pick up white goods and yard debris in a more timely manner, adding, "but they will not be here for a while, and it is not going to change until they get here and get drivers in them."

"Are we going to hire anyone for Chester's position?" Woodfaulk asked Hart.

"Not at the moment," Hart replied.

"You all are going to have this place running over with constituents," Woodfaulk stated. "Why are we not hiring anyone for Chester's position?"

"I want to get the water and wastewater superintendent positions filled first," Hart explained.

"If I can get good leaders in those two positions, along with Anthony (Willoughby) in gas, I don't know if we have a need for a public works director."

"Who is giving them the destinations and where to go?" Woodfaulk asked.

"They know," Brynes interjected.

"Danielle and Anthony have been overseeing a lot of that. They are doing their rounds," Staffney commented.

However, Woodfaulk complained that there is currently no accountability for city crews not

performing tasks.

"It is not Danielle. She can send them out there all day long, but if the job is not being completed, that is where my problem is coming in," Woodfaulk complained. "I asked more than a month ago for them to go around and see where lime rock needed to be laid."

"In Zone 4, only two houses got lime rock laid in front of them, like where potholes are washed out on the right-of-ways," she added.

"You pull up to an intersection, and you can't see what is coming. It doesn't make any sense. I know we are a member of Tree City, USA or whatever, and they have certain regulations, but we don't have to be a member of that group. Our safety is more important."
- Councilwoman Diane Landry

"So, is there any accountability...Is anyone checking behind them to make sure that these things are being done?" Woodfaulk asked.

"I understand," Hart replied.

"Do we still have both inmate crews?" Hampton asked.

"Yes, they are pretty much on the mowers," Staffney answered.

"Are they mowing and picking up at the same time?" Woodfaulk asked.

"I would hope so...or a

day or two after," Staffney replied.

"That is not being done," Woodfaulk stated. "They are picking up litter, but not mowing. I am just trying to get an understanding here, because I am getting fussed again and again."

"The people need to know. It needs to get coordinated," Staffney said.

"If I clean up my yard and then look at the right-of-way, there is paper and trash and grass that needs to be cut, that is not fair to those living in this area," Woodfaulk added. "I just want some accountability."

Later, Brynes asked city staff to take action on running natural gas lines down Lacour Lane, which prompted some discussion about the poor condition of the road.

Stating it was the "most important thing" and "top of the list," Brynes also brought up the Shirley Scott Park sign, which he said "has been torn to pieces and needs to be fixed."

Ketring continued the string of council member requests that would normally have been assigned to the public works director, by asking staff to look into the need for a four-way stop.

"I call it the Pizza Hut bypass - between Puckett and Hwy. 19. A lady brought up the need for a stop sign at the intersection of Pine Road and Cypress Road due to speeding and the bus stopping at that intersection."

Hampton then requested the city look into cutting back foliage or installing a four-way stop on Bay Street and Quincy Street behind Wells Fargo.

"I had to pull out into the street because I could not see anything and almost got hit. He (homeowner) suggested a four-way stop there, but something has to be done," Hampton said.

"I asked about people planting on city right-of-way, and I was told that the policy was you can do it until we need it, and when we need it we will take it up," Landry said. "No. That is our right-of-way, and there should not be any plantings on city right-of-way. You can't see due to the foliage."

"So my recommendation is -- cut the stuff."
- Councilwoman Diane Landry

"You pull up to an intersection, and you can't see what is coming. It doesn't make any sense. I know we are a member of Tree City, USA or whatever, and they have certain regulations, but we don't have to be a member of that group. Our safety is more important," Landry added. "I would recommend we change our policy on that, if we have one. The vegetation is in your line of sight, and you can't see."

"I have a neighbor who has something planted on a corner lot, and I suggested that it be removed. A city employee went down there and looked and said they could see just fine, but they are sitting in a truck up here, and I am in a sedan down here, and I can't see. So my recommendation is -- cut the stuff," Landry stated.

Contacted after the meeting, Hart explained he has crew leaders heading up the city's Street, Sanitation (garbage, yard debris and white goods pick-up) and Park departments, while the Water, Wastewater and Gas departments each have a supervisor.

He added that each inmate work crew is supervised by a city employee crew leader with DOC training.

LEGALS

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of the same date. Taylor County School District reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any and all Bids. Copies of the Bidding Documents may be examined at the Architect's office:

Clemons, Rutherford & Associates, Inc. (CRA)
2027 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
(850) 385-6153

An electronic set of Bidding Documents can be purchased from CRA for \$50.00 which is non-refundable. Contact CRA at (850) 385-6153 to order documents.

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Notice is hereby given that BRENDA

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INVITATION TO BID
The City of Perry is accepting sealed bids for completion of the Boys & Girls Club Teen Center. For more information regarding this bid visit the City of Perry website: www.cityofperry.net or contact Ms. Bratcher at (850)584-2189. John Hart, City Manager Shirley Hampton, City Mayor

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