



City of Beaufort, South Carolina

1911 Boundary Street • Beaufort, SC 29902

843.525.7070 • www.cityofbeaufort.org

June 27, 2024

Mr. Conway G. Ivy
501 King Street
Beaufort, SC 29902

Dear Mr. Ivy:

Thank you for your offer to match dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 to pay for the city of Beaufort's costs for an alternate gravity system study in conjunction with the King St. drainage project. Your offer, which is contained in a copy of your public comments made at the City Council meeting on Tuesday June 25, is attached.

Given that this offer was conditioned on the acceptance in principle with a deadline of 5:00 pm on Friday June 28, this left City Council with an inadequate amount of time to properly consider the offer and/or provide authorization for the city manager to accept it on the city's behalf. The City of Beaufort's Code of Ordinances regarding procurement require that more time than 72 hours would be needed to meet legal requirements in sourcing this service.

Further, if our Code of Ordinances related to procurement is followed to secure a gravity system study, there is no guarantee that Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering (ICE) would be awarded the contract; and one of the four conditions placed on your offer was that ICE would do the study. I will also point out that the additional condition of "I and the city engineering department together determine the scope of work and monitor its progress," is also not feasible since you are not an authorized representative, nor are you an employee of the City of Beaufort.

Once again, I want to thank you for your willingness to offer your personal resources in search of an alternate solution to satisfy needs identified in "The Point and Downtown Drainage Study for the City of Beaufort," published in August 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott M. Marshall".

Scott M. Marshall
City Manager

Enclosure

cc: City Council of the City of Beaufort

June 25, 2024

Conway G. Ivy Beaufort City Council Public Comment Presentation re King Street Drainage Project

I am here regarding the King Street Drainage Project

Davis & Floyd presented an updated proposal at the Work Session prior to this meeting.

This was in response to several public sessions that occurred in May.

For the most part the proposal was unresponsive to my and the community concerns.

The issue concerning the King Street Drainage Project is the placement of a pumping station and related structures in the Charlie Knott Park.

This placement destroys the park and the view shed.

Residents' concerns are not with the need to repair or replace the blocked and clogged sewer pipes.

A properly operating gravity system would not impinge on the Park.

It would retain the open area that has existed throughout Beaufort's history.

This alternative approach has not been developed or publicly evaluated after repeated requests.

In the April 23rd City Council Meeting. I stated and I quote;

"THE PROPOSED ADDITION OF THE PUMPING STATION, GENERATOR AND OUT FLOW STRUCTURE SHOULD BE STOPPED UNTIL WE CAN SEE IF REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE GRAVITY SYSTEM WILL ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS AS IT HAS IN THE DISTANT PAST.

MOSSY OAKS HAD A PERSISTANT FLOODING PROBLEM FOR YEARS. THIS HAS BEEN CORRECTED WITH A GRAVITY SYSTEM."

In other public meetings with Davis & Floyd and City representatives present I and others have continued to propose consideration of a gravity system.

The meetings were

April 10 Historic Review Board

April 26 Public Hearing on all Downtown drainage projects

May 7- As a prelude to the May 8 public meetings, a Petition signed by 282 people requesting a Moratorium on the Davis & Floyd proposal pending a thorough and complete analysis of the need and impact of the proposed system.

aka Why won't a properly functioning gravity system work?

The signers constituted 79% of the Point residents which would be even higher if you removed the 10 rentals and 12 vacant houses from the total.

May 8 Public Meetings: Historic Review Board, followed by Public Update Session followed by City Council Workshop.

May 13 through May 17, Point neighborhood one on one meetings with individual council members.

After the May 8 meeting marathon, the City and Davis & Floyd indicated they would consider modifying the plan.

This resulted in the revisions that were presented to Council in the work session prior to this meeting.

A gravity system without the pumping station in the park was not considered.

Davis & Floyd through these number of months has indicated their commitment to a pumping station in Knott Park. That is fine, they have their reasons and approach.

However, an independent engineering firm should prepare a gravity system alternative.

It is incumbent on Council to have two alternatives to consider.

This is particularly true since the pumping station cost is \$6.8 million of the \$9.5 million total project cost.

This is aside from the irreversible destruction of the Park.

Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering is the perfect firm to do this study. They successfully designed the Mossy Oaks gravity system project.

I believe everyone is happy with the results. I and others have been impressed with their work.

I do not propose the creation of a gravity system alternative lightly.

Councils' decision is extremely important for our neighborhood and community.

To underscore my commitment, I offer to match dollar for dollar up to \$50,000 the City of Beaufort's cost for the gravity system study.

This offer is subject to;

1. Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering doing the study;
2. I and the City engineering department together determine the scope of work and monitor its progress;
3. A final legal agreement executed with appropriate conditions.
4. This offer is open to be accepted in principle until 5:00 pm Friday, June 28.

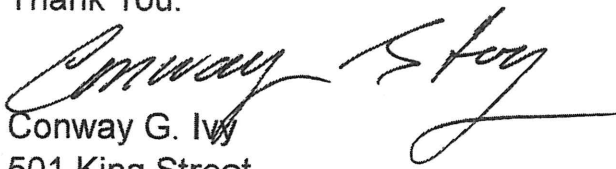
Yesterday, I spoke with Mr. Elhan Farzam who is Chief Executive Officer of Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering.

With his permission I can disclose his firm will consider taking on this project, that he supports the City having alternatives to evaluate and that his firm has a good relationship with the City which they value.

I undertook this inquiry as I did not want to make this proposal if his firm was unwilling to consider the assignment.

Given the collegial nature of the Civil engineering community, I am confident that the development of a gravity system alternative can be accomplished in a timely professional manner.

Thank You.


Conway G. Ivy
501 King Street
Beaufort, SC