

**New Smyrna Beach City Commission Meeting
June 8, 2021**

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City Commissioners unanimously approved a land lease necessary for the city to undertake a \$1 million water quality project benefitting the Indian River Lagoon.

The 30-year lease between city departments was one of several items on the Consent Agenda that Commissioners vote on en masse. In particular, the city's Maintenance Operations Department will pay \$4,452 a year to the city's Airport Fund to use an existing borrow pit and an adjacent canal numbered as the C-05 Canal, to build the water quality project.

City Engineer Kyle Fegley previously explained plans call for diverting water from the C-05 Canal into a 25-acre borrow pit for treatment to reduce pollutants. The canal flows south to north along the west side of the pit at the southwest corner of Industrial Park Avenue and Turnbull Street. It eventually empties into the backwaters of the Indian River east of U.S. 1, across from that highway's intersection with Industrial Park Avenue.

The water quality improvement work involves constructing a diversion weir to divert water from the canal into the borrow pit, and an outfall structure to return the treated water back into the C-05 Canal. The goal is to reduce the annual nutrient load downstream by 1,300 pounds of total nitrogen and 320 pounds of total phosphorus.

The project's total cost is estimated at about \$1 million, including consulting fees and construction. But New Smyrna Beach obtained a \$475,000 grant from the St. Johns River Water Management District to offset the price tag for building the weir and outfall. The remaining costs are fully funded through the city's stormwater utility fees.

Fegley estimated construction could start on the water quality improvement project this fall.

City Commissioners voted 5-0 to approve ordinances annexing, rezoning and changing the land use for about 2.5 acres at 2555 Erena Drive.

The property's owners requested annexation into the city for the acreage on the north side of Erena Drive, west of Cone Lake Drive. It will be designated as a rural land use and a city zoning classification of Rural Agriculture (RA), similar to the property's former classification when it was under Volusia County's jurisdiction.

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