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BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSION

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October 26, 2023

The Honorable Joseph Earman
& Indian River County Board of Commissioners
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

RE: Resolution No. R-23-34 – Septic to Sewer Funding Opportunities

Dear Chairman Earman & Commissioners:

Please find enclosed Resolution No. R-23-34 regarding the City's agreement to work together in pursuing septic to sewer conversions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanette Williams".

Jeanette Williams, MMC
City Clerk

Enclosure

cc: John Titkanich, County Administrator

RESOLUTION NO. R-23-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING ITS INTENTION TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH INDIAN RIVER COUNTY IN ORDER TO SEEK FUNDING FOR SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSIONS; AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO COOPERATE IN SAME; ADOPTING FINDINGS, AFFIRMATIONS, AUTHORIZATIONS, PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTIAN FLORIDA, THAT:

WHEREAS, the City of Sebastian, Indian River County, and the State of Florida share a common interest in protecting water and other natural resources by facilitating the removal or conversion of underground septic systems to enhanced nutrient reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (ENR Systems); and

WHEREAS, the City of Sebastian has unsuccessfully explored means of funding for its citywide septic tank problem; and

WHEREAS, there is a dire need to obtain funding to eliminate or convert septic tanks for all City residents throughout the entire City, and thereby reducing the amount of nitrogen and bacteria entering the groundwater and improving public health by reducing the number of bacteria entering surface water; and

WHEREAS, these reductions are critical to the quality of life for all citizens of Sebastian, Florida and also the surrounding areas of Indian River County, Florida given that provision for and the achievement of improved water quality in the City of Sebastian will also result in benefits to the county's and surrounding area's environment and citizens; and

WHEREAS, project funding is needed and would be utilized to complete the design, permitting and construction of a new sewer collection and transmission system and thereby providing for the conversion and elimination of current septic systems, the primary treatment means for City of Sebastian's wastewater, to sewer or upgraded ENR Systems throughout the entire City of Sebastian; and

WHEREAS, project funding would allow all homes and businesses in the City of Sebastian, including a population of roughly 26,000 persons and 11,000 homes, to connect to a City sewer system or upgrade their system to ENR Systems; and

WHEREAS, the projected need includes resources and a plan to serve virtually all residential units in Sebastian; and

WHEREAS, the following are among the benefits that would be realized by City of Sebastian and Indian River County area citizens with funding and execution of a Septic to Sewer Project:

- a. Improve physical health; and
- b. Preserve and improve environment for fish and wildlife quality; and
- c. Protect the general public from environmental harm; and
- d. Increase and improve economic activity; and
- e. Increase area tourism; and
- f. Improve wastewater management; and
- g. Improve groundwater quality; and
- h. Improve drinking water quality; and
- i. Improve surface water quality; and
- j. Enhance and improve public health; and
- k. Enhance and improve City of Sebastian and Indian River County real estate values;

WHEREAS, House Bill 1379 was enacted by the Florida Legislature during the 2023 legislative session which specifies impacted areas in the state where enhanced nutrient reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (ENR Systems) are required instead of conventional septic systems; and

WHEREAS, Indian River County and the City of Sebastian wish to work together in order to accomplish the foregoing goals and cooperate in the same by exploring all grant and other funding options from the State of Florida or otherwise available sources in order to accomplish funding of this project and in order to comply with the new statutory scheme; and

WHEREAS, ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE HEALTH SAFETY AND PUBLIC WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF SEBASTIAN.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. **RECITALS.** The above recitals contained in the Whereas clauses above are hereby adopted as true and correct and determined to be the legislative findings of the City Council of the City of Sebastian.
2. **AFFIRMATION.** The City Council of the City of Sebastian wishes to reaffirm its commitment and support for the above contained recitals in order to obtain funding to completion of conversion of underground septic systems to centralized wastewater

(sewer) systems or upgraded septic systems, in order to comply with the new statutory scheme and as otherwise deemed to be in the public interest as stated above.

- 3. **AUTHORIZATION.** The City Manager and City Attorney, by and through their designees are authorized to work with the appropriate Staff through Interlocal agreement or otherwise negotiations and conversation to seek funding as needed above to meet the goals stated and to bring any formal agreements back to the City Council if deemed necessary by law.
- 4. **TRANSMITTAL.** The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Chairman of the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners, with a copy to the County Administrator.
- 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED THIS 25th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023 BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTIAN FLORIDA.

Councilmember:	Jones	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	no
	Nunn	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	no
	Dodd	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	no
	Dixon	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	no
	McPartlan	<u> X </u>	aye	<u> </u>	no

ATTEST:

CITY OF SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA

Jeanette Williams

Jeanette Williams, City Clerk

[Signature]

Fred Jones, Mayor

Approved as to form and legality.

Jennifer Cockcroft

Jennifer Cockcroft, Esq.
City Attorney

