



Memorandum

Memorandum 24-069

Date: April 26, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Apr 30, 2024 14:19 EDT)

Re: Emergency Purchase – Replacement of Water Main on N. New River Drive, SE 3rd Ave, and SE 4th Street

On September 7, 2023, City crews performed emergency repairs to an 8-inch diameter ductile iron water main located near 347 N. New River Drive following a break. As a result of the break, water pressure dropped below 20 pounds per square inch (psi), resulting in a Precautionary Boil Water Notice (PBWN) being issued. Due to degraded pipe conditions, the PBWN remained in place for three weeks until testing for bacteriological presence confirmed the water was safe to consume.

On September 27, 2023, I requested that a procurement emergency be declared pursuant to Section 2-190(b)(2), Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida (Memorandum 23-118). This allowed staff to work with a current City of Fort Lauderdale contractor to expedite the needed replacement of existing water main pipes using the pipe-bursting method. The project scope included replacement of the water mains on N. New River Drive from Andrews Ave to SE 5th Ave, SE 5th Ave from N. New River Drive to Las Olas Blvd, SE 3rd Ave from N. New River Drive to Las Olas Blvd, and SE 4th St from SE 3rd Ave to SE 5th Ave (see attached map). At that time, staff estimated the total project cost to be between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000.

Work on the project is now complete. Due to the urgent, emergency nature of work and lack of a design prior to construction, significant unforeseen conditions were encountered as the project progressed, extending the duration of the project and requiring some modification of the initial scope of work. As a result, staff issued two change orders, raising the final project cost to \$2,032,562.00.

I appreciate the support of the City Commission in the completion of this emergency project. If you require any additional information, please contact Public Works Director Alan Dodd at (954) 828-5806 or adodd@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachment: Memorandum 23-118

c: Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Ansbrosio, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 23-118

Date: September 27, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chaverria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Sep 28, 2023 09:37 EDT)

Re: Emergency Purchase – Replacement of Water Main on N New River Dr, SE 3rd Ave and SE 4th St

On September 7, 2023, City crews performed emergency repairs to an 8-inch diameter ductile iron water main located near 347 N New River Dr following a break. As a result of the break, water pressure dropped below 20 pounds per square inch (psi), resulting in a Precautionary Boil Water Notice (PBWN) being issued. While the City has been testing for bacteriological presence to ensure the water is safe to consume, samples continue to fail. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulations require passing results for two (2) consecutive days before the PBWN can be lifted. On September 24, 2023, City staff received approval from FDEP and executed a temporary localized chlorination injection to clear bacteria from this segment of pipe, however the operation was not successful. On September 26, 2023, after further consultation with FDEP, the City performed a second, stronger, chlorination injection and is waiting for results to determine when the precautionary boil water notice may be lifted.

The water main is ductile iron and is estimated to be more than 30 years old. Due to its proximity to the New River, pipe infrastructure at this location is susceptible to high ground water, river's tidal cycles, saltwater intrusion, and king tides, which attack metals and result in severe corrosion and deterioration. This was evident from an excavation that showed the pipe severely rusted and pitted.

On January 27, 2022, there was a previous water main break on SE 4th St and an emergency repair, which resulted in a precautionary boil water notification. It took a total of 17 days, until February 13, 2022, for the City to achieve clean testing results and lift the PBWN.

There is an existing Community Investment Plan (CIP) project, P12531, which is currently funded to replace the failing force main. The project scope, which is in design, includes replacing and upsizing the water mains on N New River Dr from Andrews Ave to SE 5th Ave, SE 5th Ave from N New River Dr to Las Olas Blvd, SE 3rd Ave from N New River Dr to Las Olas Blvd, and SE 4th St from SE 3rd Ave to SE 5th Ave (See yellow highlighted

Memorandum No: 23-118
Page 2 of 2

sections on map). It is recommended that all pipes, ranging from 4, 6, and 8 inches, are upsized to 10 inches. Staff are also recommending the City utilize alternative non-corrosive pipe materials for this area, such as PVC or HDPE, to reduce the impacts of groundwater and saltwater. Staff estimates the total project cost will be between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000.

Due to the previous history of issues with pipes in this area, the inability to clear bacteriological presence within the water, the risk of future pipe breaks, and continued impacts to our residents, at staff's request, the City Manager has declared a procurement emergency, pursuant to Section 2-190(b)(2), Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Emergency purchases are permitted in the event of equipment failure, catastrophic damage to City property, or other similar unexpected events.

Following this declaration, staff will coordinate with the Procurement Division and current City of Fort Lauderdale contractor(s) to expedite the needed replacement of existing water main pipes using the pipe-bursting method. Initial planning indicated construction work could commence as early as within the next two (2) weeks and take approximately 3-4 weeks to be completed. The scope of work will include establishing temporary connections for all buildings and services impacted by the construction to ensure continued water supply during construction. A full report of all purchases associated with his emergency request shall be made to the City Commission at the earliest available Commission Meeting.

For additional information contact Public Works Director Alan Dodd at adodd@fortlauderdale.gov.

Attachment: Limits of Work Area Map

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers

Commission Memo 23-118
Attachment

Limits of Work Area

