

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

JULY 27, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairperson Kevin Fuller. Committee Members present were Kevin Fuller, Jan Materni, and Jonathan Smith. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, and Matt Choma, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the June 27, 2022 meeting were approved 3-0.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

None.

STANDING WATER AND OVERFLOW IN THE GRASSY CREEK AREA

Kathleen Smith, of Hazen & Sawyer, presented a summary of the Grassy Creek Stormwater Master Plan to the Committee, Administration, and Concerned Citizens. The key project drivers include flooding complaints, topography, neighborhood design, and Grassy Creek capacity.

Scott King, 925 Walnut Street, wanted to know the difference between available and unavailable record drawings. Ms. Kathleen Smith explained that plans are developed to build something and, once it is built, elevations are captured in record drawings.

Jim Dollar, 200 West South Boundary Street and 917 Pine Street, stated that the sanitary sewer in his backyard will back up after a few days of rain. Mr. Smith explained that it is something the City is still trying to work on. Ms. Kabat stated that there could be drainage or utility easements. Mr. Fuller stated that it is a compound issue with the storm water and the sanitary. Ms. Kabat added that the sanitary is with a different consultant, so they will address that at another time.

Richard Leggett, 1039 Maple Street, stated that Ms. Smith's presentation is misleading because on Maple Street there are no open catch basins or storm sewers, only sanitary. Ms. Materni asked if this study is based on ten years of average storms and if we are seeing them happen with more frequency. Ms. Smith stated with climate change, some areas are seeing more frequent or intense storms.

Ms. Smith went through the different alternatives that they ran through the model. These alternatives include storm sewers in the right of way and underground storage, storm sewers in the right of way plus sewers for backyard drainage, piping to the Maumee River, and bio retention.

The recommendations are to address concerns for Grassy Creek, phased implementation, and backyard drainage taps. Mr. Smith was curious about extending the piping directly to the Maumee River and what that cost is. Ms. Kathleen Smith stated that there would be private property access issues. She added that it is a possibility, but they did not look at it from a cost standpoint. Mr.

Smith wanted a suggestion on how we could get access property to clean Grassy Creek. Ms. Kathleen Smith stated that the City's legal department would have to look into that, but that you could also contact citizens and get permission from them directly. Ms. Kabat added that there was a clean the stream event through the Service Department.

Scott King, 925 Walnut Street, asked about the sewer drains that are hooked into the storm drains and if they can expect the City to bring that up to code. Mr. Smith stated that none of them should be connected. Ms. Kabat added that the storm sewer separation project was completed in 2017.

Paul Smithers, 1055 Locust Street, stated that he has been living there for 55 years. The water in his yard sits until it soaks into the yard and that there is no run off on his property. He suggested running a vault in between Locust Street and Elm Street, connecting down to Grassy Creek. Mr. Smithers added that anything they can do will help.

George Brenner, 1035 Maple Street, mentioned that the ditch that runs into Simmons Pond could be utilized as a retention area temporarily. Water could be diverted there as an overflow, he added. Mr. Smith stated that they would have to go through the Federal Government and there are strict regulations, but it doesn't hurt to look into it further. Mr. Smith added that there are some bottleneck issues in Grassy Creek and that the City's first step should be to get the flow going, to determine next steps.

Collin Rudnik, 939 Maple Street, stated that he appreciates this meeting being held and appreciates the Committee members bringing up the worst case scenarios. He appreciates knowing where they are at and where things could go. Ms. Smith explained that the integrated plan would answer a lot of cost-benefit questions that Mr. Rudnik has.

Mr. Smith suggested that the first step is to work on Grassy Creek, to talk with the Law Director, and to talk with residents that have part of Grassy Creek on their property. Ms. Materni agrees, but stated that we have to have a comprehensive plan and cannot do this piecemeal.

Stephanie Lenz, on behalf of her parents at 1034 Maple Street, stated that they have lived there over fifty years and she remembers the flooding as a kid. There will be weeks or months the grass cannot be mowed because of water standing. Her parents have called and complained to the City for years. Ms. Lenz added that after a rainfall, there are parts of the sidewalks on Maple Street that you cannot walk on because they are flooded.

Rita Fisher, 1032 Maple Street, stated that she has had standing water in her front and backyard and that it gets worse every year. Ms. Fisher stated that in years past she was told a solution was not in the budget. Mosquitos are also an issue, Ms. Fisher added.

Nadine Hoffmann, 950 Maple Street, said that young families moving in with kids are having to play in the street because they can't use their yards. Mr. Fuller understands the frustrations and does not intent to brush this off. Mr. Fuller added that City Council needs to adopt a plan and move forward with something. Mr. Fuller thanked everyone for coming out and that this will stay on the agenda until it starts moving in the right direction.

PERMISSION TO PURCHASE UV DISINFECTION EQUIPMENT

Mr. Choma explained that the Department of Public Utilities would like to purchase new equipment involved in wastewater treatment. This would be purchased through Trojan Technologies and this is the most beneficial to the City and operation of the plant. Mr. Fuller asked about the life expectancy. Mr. Choma explained that there would be additional costs down the road and that this is not a onetime purchase. There being no objections, the Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

FELLER-FINCH CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Mr. Choma explained that they are seeking to amend a contract with Feller-Finch. Rather than replacing a single segment, they looked into what it would take to replace the segment from Elm Street to Hickory Street. The total fee for the project is \$29,500.00. Mr. Smith noted that it was going from eighteen inches to eight inches and wanted to be sure it would not affect anything at all. Mr. Choma confirmed that it would not and that an eight inch is plenty to handle the flow. Feller-Finch will complete the design and the Engineering Department will put it out for bid. There being no objections, the Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

PERMISSION TO PURCHASE WATER METERS FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES

Mr. Choma explained that with all of the growth and with aging systems, the City has to replace water meters. They are looking to replenish their used inventory and Mr. Choma hopes to keep one-hundred meters in stock for the foreseeable future. Mr. Smith asked if they have the storage capabilities. Mr. Choma answered yes and that they are actually turning one of their garage bays into a stock area. There being no objections, the Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith asked about the ditch along the cemetery because it came up during the cemetery board meeting. Ms. Kabat explained that the ditch is not in the city right of way and is on cemetery property.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fuller, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.