

HEALTH, SANITATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Jonathan Smith, Barry VanHoozen and Becky Williams. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CSSD 211 PHASE 2 UPDATE

Ms. Godsey reported that notices have gone out regarding Cherry Street Sewer Separation District 211 Phase 2 and so far 14 written objections have been received. A couple of properties have until December 21st to submit objections, and Ms. Godsey would like to have legislation at the second City Council meeting in January regarding establishment of an equalization board. A special meeting will need to be scheduled.

WATER AND SEWER RATE STUDY

Ms. Godsey stated that the water and sewer rate study was presented to the Committee last month. It recommended an 8.5% water rate increase to cover the rate increases from the City of Toledo. There is no sewer rate increase proposed. Ms. Godsey said that we have absorbed increases of 13.2% from the City of Toledo in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Toledo is proposing another 13.2% increase in 2017 and a 4.5% increase in 2018. We do not have information about anything after 2018. When the last rate study was done in 2012, we projected a 9% increase from Toledo. Ms. Kabat said that the 8.5% increase that is proposed includes the increases from Toledo and capital projects. There was discussion about the capital improvement fund and the Regional Water Study that was done. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the proposed rate increases. A first reading will be done at the first City Council meeting in January. Ms. Godsey said that she will send the study out to all Council members.

DITCH MAINTENANCE

Several residents were present to discuss the Fort Meigs Road ditch maintenance. Scott Anderson, 1599 Watermill Lane, Rachel Schmitz, 1591 Watermill Lane, Jamey Schmitz, 1591 Watermill Lane, Jackie Venzel, 1583 Watermill Lane, and Michelle Mesker, 1836 Lexington, all spoke about the project. Ms. Schmitz provided photos as well as further research she found regarding ditch maintenance. Ms. Kabat provided the Committee with a packet of information showing an update of the drainage ditches with jurisdiction, Ohio Revised Code information regarding ditch maintenance, and a letter from a citizen on the southern end of Fort Meigs Road. Ms. Kabat said that if the Committee would like them to, the Administration could prepare an RFP to solicit for proposals to have a firm come in and do an assessment of our ditches and help set up a program including how often we should be in the ditch and what our methodology should be to maintain the ditches. Mr. Smith asked if Ms. Kabat had an estimate of the cost for this. Ms. Kabat said that she believes it would be between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The Committee agreed that this would be a good idea and discussed what the RFP may ask for that could include

conservation efforts as to reinstate and reinforce the ditch banks. Ms. Kabat said that she and Ms. Godsey will work on the RFP and will bring it back to the Committee before it is sent out. Ms. Kabat left the meeting at 7:15 p.m. due to a prior commitment. The Committee discussed future communication with residents affected by this type of project. Mr. Smith stated that if we get a master plan and it is adopted by ordinance, that a notification system can be part of the ordinance.

OTHER BUSINESS

A special meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss legislation to establish an Equalization Board for Cherry Street Sewer Separation District 211 Phase 2.

Mr. Smith said that he will not be available on January 25, 2017, the date of the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Committee decided to wait and schedule the meeting when they have a better idea of when the RFP will be prepared for discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Health, Sanitation & Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. which is a special meeting to establish an Equalization Board for Cherry Street Sewer Separation District 211 Phase 2.