

HEALTH, SANITATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 30, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Jonathan Smith, Barry VanHoozen and Becky Williams. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Jon Eckel, Service Director and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

WOOD COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN RESOLUTION

Mr. Eckel stated that the City is a member of the Wood County Solid Waste District. The district has developed an operational plan adopting planning and strategies for 2017 to 2031 and they are asking that member communities approve a resolution adopting the plan. Mr. Eckel said that we have a very nice relationship with the district and Judy Hagen works with them to provide education and information regarding curbside recycling. Mr. Eckel said that all member communities receive a \$1 per capita grant each year. He said that we are not saving a lot of money on disposing of recyclables right now, but that can change, and it is the right thing to do. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the resolution.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE DUMP TRUCK ON STATE BID

Ms. Godsey requested approval to purchase a dump truck from Selking International under the State bid for the Department of Public Utilities. The purchase price is \$120,342 and \$130,000 was included in the 2016 budget for the purchase. The new dump truck will replace a 2005 dump truck that will be transferred to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Ms. Kabat stated that the new dump truck has a larger hauling capacity. Mr. Smith asked what the WWTP will use the truck for. Ms. Godsey said that they move biosolids, gravel and do snow removal. Mr. Smith asked what will happen to the Treatment Plant's current dump truck, and Ms. Godsey said it will either be scrapped or sold at auction. Mr. VanHoozen asked the mileage on the 2005 truck, and Ms. Godsey said that she did not have that information with her. Ms. Kabat said that her recollection is that there are not a significant number of hours on the truck, but the hours that it has are hard hours because it's from hauling. The new truck is a tandem axle and they will have fewer hauls because of the bigger capacity. Fewer loads will save on fuel costs and save time on projects.

The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase of a new dump truck from Selking International through the State bid program.

TMACOG WATER RESOLUTION

Mayor Olmstead, who is Co-Chair of the TMACOG Regional Water Planning Committee, was present to request approval of a resolution. He said the resolution is the culmination of twelve to fourteen months of work between the various water customers of the City of Toledo, along with the City of Toledo itself. The resolution forges out what a new type of relationship would look like, it defines what regionalism means, and it has individual points of what a new regional system would look like. Mayor Olmstead said that it is non-binding,

but he feels it is a very important step for the various jurisdictions to indicate their desire for a regional system. Mayor Olmstead said that as of that morning the South County Regional Water System in Michigan and the Lucas County Commissioners had approved it. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the resolution.

DITCH MAINTENANCE

Ms. Kabat distributed several items to the Committee: the first draft of a map showing the watercourse/ditch system in Perrysburg and who is responsible for the care and maintenance of them; a map showing work done in the past on ditches and a map showing the drainage area. She said that the Administration is consulting with the County Engineer and putting together a Master Plan of care and maintenance of the ditches. Ms. Kabat said that Mr. Smith has asked for policies from other utilities regarding ditch maintenance. Ms. Godsey distributed Columbia Gas' policy and she read Toledo Edison's policy which is more stringent. She said she also spoke to John Musteric from the Wood County Engineer's office and he said that they remove any woody vegetation on the banks. John Cade from the Hancock County Engineer's Office said that they go top of the bank to top of the bank and remove anything in the right of way that they consider a hindrance. Mr. Smith asked how often they clean it out, and Ms. Godsey said they did not discuss that but once they remove the vegetation they spray so there is no new growth. Mr. Smith asked the last time the Fort Meigs Road ditch was serviced. Ms. Godsey said that it was annexed into the City in the 1990's. Ms. Kabat said that we do not know the last time. Mr. Smith asked how often it is recommended that the ditches be cleaned. Ms. Kabat said that will also be discussed with the Wood County Engineer. Ms. Williams clarified that there isn't a plan for ditch cleaning. Ms. Kabat said that is correct. Ms. Williams asked if the other ditches were cleaned because there were projects going on. Ms. Kabat said that is the reason some of them were cleaned, but the others were done because of drainage issues. She added that unfortunately some areas have not received the care they should have. Ms. Kabat said that moving forward the Department of Public Utilities has been instructed to consult with the Department of Public Service to see what vegetation can be kept. The actual cleaning of the ditch has not been scheduled. After that is scheduled we will have an idea of the timing for fencing and looking at the sidewalk. Mayor Olmstead stated that there have been several internal tweaks made to improve cooperation among divisions. He also said that on a quarterly basis projects that are in line will be messaged in all mediums out there to give homeowners a chance to react. Ms. Williams asked if notices would be sent out like Planning and Zoning does to properties within 200'. Mayor Olmstead said that the system has to be able to be duplicated without bogging down the system. There was a discussion regarding private versus public ditches and the idea of private individuals being involved with the cleaning of the ditches.

Tim McCarthy asked what the plans are moving forward with restoration. Ms. Kabat said once the heavy equipment has moved out Mr. Eckel will assess the condition of the sidewalk and determine if replacement is necessary. The fencing can't go up until the work is completed. One quote for roughly 1300' of black, vinyl coated chain link fence has

been received in the amount of \$17,500. Ms. Kabat said that no decisions have been made regarding the fencing and it will be discussed internally with the safety forces keeping in mind the cost, safety and practicality. In the spring they will see what area is available to put in approved street trees that are not in the sight line. Mr. McCarthy asked that they let City Council and the neighbors know when the actual cleaning is done.

Rachel Schmitz, 1591 Watermill Lane, defined silt and said that she cleaned ditches as a kid. She asked how the silt was measured and she read information she got from Google regarding silt and ditch cleaning. The information Ms. Schmitz found said that as little vegetation as possible should be removed from ditches.

Ms. Kabat asked what other information City Council would like that the Administration can get so a policy can be determined on cleaning ditches in the future. Mr. VanHoozen asked how this will be handled differently in the future. Ms. Kabat said that it was her understanding that City Council was going to come up with a plan, pass legislation, and issue a directive to the Administration. Mr. Smith said that he thought City Council's role was going to be more regarding communication. Mr. McCarthy said that he is hearing conflicting information about to what degree vegetation has to be removed. Mr. Eckel said there is no one rule for ditch maintenance; each is a unique situation. Mr. McCarthy said that does not lend itself to a one size fits all legislation. Mr. Eckel said that ditches have always been a gray issue. Mr. McCarthy asked if any trees can be saved in the next phases. Mr. Eckel said that it has been discussed several times and he is confident in handling this moving forward. Ms. Kabat clarified that removing vegetation to maintain access but keep what we can does not mean everything gets saved.

Bob Venzel, 1583 Watermill Lane, said that he has lived there for 22 years and the ditch has never had more than a foot of water in it and it flows very well. He said that he knows safety is an issue but regarding the fence, he hopes they consider the aesthetics. He also encouraged the City to come up with a policy because the homeowners have no trust in the City. Bill Brown, 743 Deer Run, said that he has been here for 30 years and there has never been a problem with flooding and he can't imagine why this needed to be done. Scott Anderson, 1599 Watermill Lane, suggested that a resolution be passed that any Public Works project put the environment on the same level as the project itself and directing the Administration to have to look at the impact to property owners.

Mr. McCarthy said that with regards to what does City Council want to see, he would like to hear justification from Alice or Mark or whoever as to why Phases 2 and 3 need to be done if there is not a lot of water, and a plan on what vegetation needs to be removed. Ms. Williams said that she agrees with Mr. McCarthy's comments but she likes the notification process of properties within 200' for large projects. Mr. Smith said that it is up to the Committee the best way to communicate but we can get ideas from the divisions on what we can do better.

Michelle Mesker, 1836 Lexington, asked if they could sign a waiver so they can clean out the ditch and if the funds that would be used to clean out the Fort Meigs Road ditch could be diverted to clean out the ditch by the Perrysburg Junior High School.

WATER AND SEWER RATE STUDY

Ms. Kabat stated that in the past, two readings have typically been done for the budget and water and sewer rate increases. She said that the original goal was to have legislation in place by January 1, but since this is the first time City Council is seeing the proposed rates, the Administration is comfortable with having whatever City Council enacts in place by March 1, 2017. Ms. Godsey referenced the executive summary that was distributed to the Committee. She said that it shows a water rate increase of 8.5% per year from 2017-2020 and no increase in sewer rates. Ms. Godsey noted that the water fund absorbed increases from the City of Toledo since 2013 and the City of Toledo has approved a 13.2% increase in 2017 and a 4.5% increase in 2018. Mr. Smith asked why nothing is factored in for a regional water system. Ms. Kabat explained that at this point it would be like throwing a dart at a dartboard because we have no idea what that dollar amount would be. She said that as that decision is solidified they can come back to City Council. Mr. VanHoozen said that he is in favor of charging the actual costs as opposed to some speculative cost. Ms. Kabat encouraged the Committee to email the Administration with any questions they may have regarding this study.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Health, Sanitation & Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.