

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Jonathan Smith, Jan Materni, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Kate Sandretto, Law Director, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Roger Bowers, 758 Maple Street, is requesting an abatement of sewage on his utility bill for the months of October and November. Mr. Bowers has met with Ms. Godsey several times. The Committee members had a lengthy discussion back and forth with Mr. Bowers. Mr. Smith suggested they refund in excess of Mr. Bowers' maximum usage in the last two years, which is 500 cubic feet. So, for October it will be reduced from 2,000 to 500 and for November it will be reduced from 700 to 500. Ms. Materni and Mr. VanHoozen agreed that they are good with the method of refund as well. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES

With no objections, the minutes were passed unanimously

SEWER CREDIT APPEAL – 114 WENTWORTH COURT

Ms. Godsey explained that the homeowner submitted a letter and documentation of repair costs and that the backup sump pump ran for an extended period of time due to failure of the primary sump pump. A dye test was done, which confirmed that the water does not enter the sanitary sewer. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

SEWER CREDIT APPEAL – 900 WOOD SORREL LANE

Ms. Godsey explained that the homeowner submitted a letter and documentation of repair costs and that the backup sump pump ran for an extended period of time due to failure of the primary sump pump. A dye test was done, which confirmed that the water does not enter the sanitary sewer. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Ms. Godsey stated that there was just one at 753 Delaware, which was approved on November 19, 2021. This brings the total year to date to \$5,860.01.

WATER AND SEWER RATES LEGISLATION

Mr. VanHoozen asked when these rates will change. Ms. Sandretto stated that if legislation is passed as an emergency measure at City Council on Tuesday, it will go into effect January 1, 2022. The Committee members agreed that it was not necessary to put this through as an emergency measure, since it involves a rate change. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

RETURNED ITEMS REVIEW

Mr. Smith explained that with a delinquent check, a shut off cannot occur until the thirteenth day after the next billing cycle. On the back of the water bill, it states that an NSF can lead to an immediate shutoff and that the wording should be changed. There was discussion amongst Ms. Sandretto, Ms. Godsey, and the Committee members. They agreed to keep the door hangers as an administrative function for now.

ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE FORT MEIGS MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT – DPU PORTION OF FUNDS

Mr. Smith noted that the Multi-Use Path will now go all the way down to River Road. Ms. Sandretto stated that they wanted to be fully funded for the project, including worst case scenarios, since the ditch is already collapsing. The Committee members discussed the scoring of the firms and the process of how the firm was chosen. Mr. Smith reiterated that we need to avoid the removal of trees as few as possible with this project. Mr. VanHoozen stated that he will support this, but hopes that moving forward our ditch cleaning process is enhanced, compared to what it has been in the past. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to City Council.

DISCUSS DECEMBER MEETING DATE

By December 17, 2021 the Committee will decide if they are meeting in December. The date and time will be tentatively held until then.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith mentioned a water pipe sticking out in the middle of the sidewalk by Shell Gas Station, on 25 and Findlay. Ms. Godsey stated that it is a valve box and equipment is ordered. Mr. Smith also wanted to mention that two doors down from his home, there is a sewer grate in the right away and near the sidewalk that is three or four inches above the ground. He wanted to make everyone aware of it, to see if there is a way to lower it, so it is not a safety hazard. Ms. Materni wanted to clarify that if we had a regular ditch maintenance program, it would avoid issues like Fort Meigs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.