PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Haraz N. Ghanbari, Jonathan Smith, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

SEWER APPEAL

Ms. Godsey reported that Midas, 26420 Dixie Highway, has requested a sewer credit for their October 2018 bill which was for 43,700 cubic feet. She explained that the normal procedure in calculating a possible sewer credit is to average the consumption of the bill for the quarter in question for the last three years. However, they only have two years of history. The October, 2016 bill was for 19,000 cubic feet and the October, 2017 bill was for 700 cubic feet. The customer suspects that their previous irrigation company fixed a leak that they did not report, but they have no documentation to support this claim. They have indicated that they are going to have a sprinkling meter installed so they will no longer be paying sewer charges on water used for the irrigation system, so this will not happen again. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of a sewer credit in the amount of $2,310.72 for Midas, 26420 Dixie Highway.

FEES FOR MANUAL METER READINGS

Ms. Godsey reported that there are still four accounts with meters that are manually read each billing period because the customer objected to the installation of a radio read. She explained that in 2015 City Council approved a fee of $20 per billing period to compensate for this manual reading. With the transition to monthly billing, that would cost the customer $240 per year. Ms. Godsey asked if City Council would like to adjust the fee. Mr. Smith asked what the actual cost of reading the meters is. Ms. Godsey said that it was calculated back in 2015 and based on those pay rates, the cost was $10.50 per account. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend that the fee be changed to $12 per billing period and that it be reevaluated periodically because of inflation.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE CONTROL PANEL FOR RIVER RIDGE LIFT STATION

Ms. Godsey requested permission to purchase a control panel for the River Ridge sewer lift station from Buckeye Pumps. The cost of the panel is $24,950. Mr. Ghanbari asked if we went out to bid on this item. Ms. Godsey said that we did not go out to bid, and the control panel will be the same type and purchased from the same supplier so we have stock replacement parts. Ms. Godsey said that she asked if the quote could go longer than 30 days, and the supplier said they could hold the price until mid-December. She said delivery will be 4-6 weeks after we place the order. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Committee had a lengthy discussion about the backflow prevention program. Ms. Kabat distributed a summary of information from the Ohio EPA about backflow, along with

our rules regarding backflow in Chapter 1060, and a spreadsheet showing the customers that are in compliance with the backflow regulations and those that are not. Ms. Kabat explained that we require RPZ devices on domestic, irrigation, and fire lines for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Mr. VanHoozen asked if we have backflow requirements on residential irrigation systems. Ms. Kabat said we do not at this time. She said that some communities do require backflow for residential customers. There was discussion regarding the possibility of different requirements for commercial uses that pose less of a risk such as an administrative office. There was also discussion about how to get customers to comply with our regulations. Ms. Kabat said that so far we've tried voluntary compliance and have not turned off water to businesses who have not complied. Ms. Kabat said that the Administration will check and see what surrounding communities' rules look like as well as additional questions the committee had on the documents presented. She also said that the Law Director can assist with this issue.

CSO/ER-SSO UPDATE

Ms. Godsey said that we worked with AECOM on our responses to the Ohio EPA's comments and those were sent on November 2nd. She said we offered to develop a CMOM program by July, 2020 and offered to control the Maple Street SSO to a ten year storm. The city rejected the idea of permanently closing the CSO due to flooding risk to homes and businesses from unusual heavy rain falls. The city is hoping to get a reply from the OEPA by the end of the year.

2019 BUDGET QUESTIONS

Mr. Ghanbari asked about the comments made by the mayor of Pioneer regarding the Michindoh Aquifer. Ms. Kabat said that they will be attending a meeting on December 4 with our partners to discuss the test results and they will share that with City Council. Mr. VanHoozen asked what dollars are in the 2019 budget to finish the studies regarding Bowling Green and Michindoh. Ms. Kabat said there are no specific funds regarding those items in the 2019 budget, but there are dollars in the water contracts line item if needed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee had a brief discussion regarding the proposed Code changes to Chapters 1050 and 1060 regarding monthly billing that will be considered at the next Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, December 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.