

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 28, 2020

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

SEWER CREDIT FOR 215 W. SIXTH STREET

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a sewer credit in the amount of \$1,240.33 for 215 W. Sixth Street. She stated that an outdoor spigot was left on and the water did not enter the sanitary sewer system. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the credit.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Ms. Godsey reported that five credits have been approved since the last committee meeting, mostly for hoses that were accidentally left on. She said the year-to-date total of credits granted is \$6,499.79.

AWARD CONSTRUCTION BID FOR WWTP DEWATERING PROJECT

Ms. Sandretto requested approval of a contract with Mosser Construction in the amount of \$1,499,000 for construction of the dewatering project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Three bids were received and Mosser had the lowest bid. Mr. Smith asked if there is any contingency amount in this contract, and Ms. Godsey said there is not, and they do not have any reason to believe there needs to be. Mr. VanHoozen asked how long the current process has been in place, and Ms. Godsey said since about 1990. Mr. VanHoozen asked about the useful life of these improvements. Ms. Godsey said there are not a lot of moving parts so with proper maintenance it should last at least twenty years. She explained that with this technology the savings is in clean water used and in operational efficiency; it does not need to be babysat all day. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract with Mosser Construction.

AWARD DESIGN CONTRACT FOR MAPLE STREET ER-SSO

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a contract with Jones and Henry for the design services for the Maple Street ER-SSO in an amount not to exceed \$98,455. Five firms responded to the RFQ and Jones and Henry was chosen based on the rankings. This will cover the preliminary engineering, detail design engineering through bidding and contract award, and construction engineering. Geotech services will be separate because we need to get some of the design work done before the Geotech work can be done. The project will include replacement of 600' of sanitary sewer, construction of 1200' of 18" force main, and rehab of approximately 4100' of 15" sewer along Grassy Creek along with a 5 mgd portable pump and trailer. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND DELINQUENT PAYMENT PENALTIES & PROCESSING

Mr. Smith recapped prior discussions the committee had about delinquent payment penalties. Ms. Sandretto said that Council previously passed legislation to apply penalties

based on the postmark date, but after discussions with the Billing Office, it was determined that not all mail has a postmark and that in an attempt to fix the problem it created others. Ms. Sandretto said that the proposed legislation states that late fees will not be applied until the morning of the 19th regardless of postmark, and that a customer may request to have one late fee waived per calendar year. Mr. Smith said that this language is actually more in line with past practice. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the ordinance.

REVIEW SECTION 1060.06(b) RULE 65 REGARDING NON-SUFFICIENT FUND FEE

Ms. Godsey stated that the Code provides for a non-sufficient fund fee for \$20 for inside City customers and a \$30 fee for outside City customers. She stated that the \$20 does not cover the City's fee from the bank. She said that she would prefer removing the rule and relying on the Director of Finance to state the charge from the bank. Ms. Sandretto said that this does not need to be codified, it can be an administrative policy, so she would recommend repealing this language. She said there is too much in the Code and the goal is to eliminate things that should not be codified. Mr. Smith said that his concern is that if it's an administrative policy, it could be revoked or changed at any time. Mr. Smith also said that he does not think the fee should be different for customers outside the City. Ms. Sandretto said that she will prepare two pieces of legislation - one to repeal and one with language following the banking fees.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Godsey distributed a handout for the Committee to look at regarding the summary of design for the Fort Meigs Road ditch. Ms. Godsey said that the cost estimate is \$350,000 and if approved, it could be included in the budget amendment next year. She said that the proposal would also allow the sidewalk to stay. The Committee discussed some of the specifics of the summary and discussed whether a multi-use path would fit instead of the sidewalk. Mr. Smith said that he would like an electronic copy of the report that could be emailed to the neighbors in that area.

There was discussion regarding the homeowners' grant program. Currently, the grant covers up to 2/3 of the cost of construction up to \$6,000, so it maxes out at a \$9,000 project. Ms. Godsey said that it could be increased to 80% of the cost up to \$8,000 which would max out at a \$10,000 project, or 80% up to \$11,200 which would make the maximum project cost \$14,000. Mr. Smith said that he is hoping to increase participation, and he would like to take this to City Council in December. Ms. Godsey said that there is \$200,000 in the budget for the grant program.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.