

HEALTH, SANITATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 28, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chairman Todd Grayson. Committee members present were: Todd Grayson, Tim McCarthy and Rick Rettig. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Mathew Beredo, Law Director, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Lori Fournier, 3170 Sterlingwood Lane, and Lisa Conine, 4269 Morgan Place, were present to discuss flooding concerns in the Brookhaven subdivision. They said that some residents have flooded many times, and the streets flood whenever it rains. Ms. Godsey noted that the rain on August 11th was an extreme event as there was over five inches of rain within a 24 hour period and three inches in one hour which made it in excess of a 100 year storm. The design of the detention pond in Brookhaven has been reviewed, and it is designed correctly to meet the 25 year storm requirement that was the criteria in 2004. The Wood County Engineer recently changed their requirements so detention ponds now have to be designed for a 100 year storm. Ms. Godsey said that the City has hired an engineer to look at the grades in the ditch and the culvert openings to determine if any of them are creating a bottleneck. The report showing if the City has the duty and jurisdiction to make any changes should be back shortly. Ms. Godsey added that within the last two weeks crews have been cleaning Fort Meigs ditch and it has already lowered the water level by one foot. They have also replaced a grate at the top of the overflow point of the pond, and ordered a new flap gate for the outlet of the Brookhaven system into the ditch. This will keep the ditch from backing up into the Brookhaven system. Mr. Grayson said he understands that the August storm was an extreme event, but his main concern is why the roads are flooding during any rain event. Ms. Kabat said that is why we are taking the steps we are taking to see if it mitigates the situation. She said when we get the report back, the Administration will come back to the Committee and state what the City can act on. She said that they have also been working with the Brookhaven Homeowners' Association on this issue.

Chip Pflgebraar, 401 W. Front Street, said that he has vegetation growing out of the storm drain in front of his house. He also asked when the right of way in front of his neighbor's house is going to be restored. It was dug up to repair a water break. Ms. Godsey said that she will look into these issues.

2015 SANITATION BUDGET

Mr. Eckel distributed a worksheet to the Committee with explanations for large increases or decreases for expenditures in the sanitation budget. He said what is vastly different from previous years is that the litter control budget was not previously integrated into the sanitation budget. He said that even with the addition of the litter control budget, the overall sanitation budget is still down \$114,000. He said that the automated collection has saved approximately \$230,000. He said that he had hoped to achieve savings of \$300,000, but the solid stream recyclables have not held their value as he had hoped. Mr. Grayson asked what the difference in the per ton tipping rate is for refuse versus recyclables. Mr. Eckel said the tipping fee for refuse has been around \$42 to \$43 per ton but is going up to \$45 per ton. He said that we have been paying about

\$1,500 to \$2,000 per month in recyclable tipping fees, but he did not know the per ton rate.

2015 DPU BUDGET

Ms. Godsey said that last month during the review of the Department of Public Utilities budget, the Committee asked about the fuel, lights and phone line item in the sewer fund. She said that account jumped in 2014 because sanitary sewer maintenance and Wastewater Treatment Plant expenditures were separated in 2013 but were combined again in 2014. The increase in 2015 is due to improvements at the treatment plant. Ms. Kabat said that Mr. Grayson asked her about a group of expenditures and why there is an increase in them. She explained that the subgroups of 1815, 1825 and 1835 in the 332 (Sewer) fund were combined into 1815 so that is why the total looks higher, but now there are no funds budgeted in the subgroups of 1825 or 1835.

WATER RATE REVIEW

Ms. Godsey reported that they are currently entering data for a water rate review. Mr. Grayson asked about the timeline and Ms. Godsey said that she should be able to get it done in November. Mr. Grayson said that he is assuming Toledo will raise their rates again, and he asked where we are absorbing the \$375,000 from the last increase. Ms. Godsey said that she believes it is being absorbed through the carryover balance.

SEWER BILL ADJUSTMENT

Ms. Godsey reported that Robert and Diana Paxton, 6200 Brookhaven Blvd., have requested a sewer credit of \$1,492.75 because of their back-up sump pump. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the motion granting this credit.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Kabat gave an update on public transportation. She said there have been 9,924 rides to date and service has leveled off at about 1,100 per month. She said the millage brings in about \$465,000 and if ridership continues along the 1,100 per month, expenditures will be approximately \$390,000. This will allow us to transfer \$50,000 to the general fund to begin to repay the loan from the gap period. Ms. Kabat said the only complaint they are aware of is from someone who wanted us to implement the option of paying by debit or credit card. She said that option is not practical or economically feasible. Mr. Grayson said he was at a forum in Rossford about their transit and someone complained that they paid \$2.00 for a ride on Perrysburg's system. Ms. Kabat said that they would only pay \$2.00 if it were for a roundtrip.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Grayson, Chairman
Health, Sanitation, and Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.