

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Chairperson Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Jan Materni, Jonathan Smith, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Amber Rathburn, Finance Director, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Paul Smithers, 1055 Locust Street, stated that he and his neighbors are all concerned about the amount of water in their yards. He stated that the tree streets are needing access to drainage and that their plants and trees are submerged in water for so long they are becoming damaged or needing replaced. Mr. Smith and Ms. Godsey discussed the Grassy Creek Storm Water Master Plan that was created by Hazen and Sawyer with Mr. Smithers and they will email him a copy of it. Ms. Godsey stated that there are priority projects in place over a number of years regarding CSO and SSO, and mentioned that the City hosts rain barrel workshops.

WATER & SEWER RATE STUDY DRAFT REPORT

Mr. Michael Maker, Executive Consultant with New Gen Strategies and Solutions LLC, presented over Zoom the updated Water & Sewer Rate Study Draft Report. He highlighted the changes from his last presentation to the Public Utilities Committee. The purchase of water from Toledo is actually based on their contract rate increases. The recommendation is to adopt the recommended charges and rates for the planning period of 2022-2026 and to review rates and charges on an annual basis. A study like this only necessary every four to five years. Mr. Smith asked if the initial presentation did not include the Toledo rate increases, which Mr. Maker confirmed is true and that this number is more accurate. Mr. Smith asked about reducing the minimum charge for usage and how would it change the figures. Mr. Maker explained that this would mean less guaranteed revenue. Mr. VanHoozen asked what is causing the spike in revenue for the sewer side of things. Mr. Maker explained that there will be a \$1.5 million surplus which will be used for future years when there is a slight deficit.

AWARD BID – 1.5 MG ELEVATED WATER TOWER PAINTING

Ms. Sandretto explained that we need our State Rate 199 elevated water tower tank painted. Of the nine bids received, all came in under the estimate, and ultimately 7 Brothers Painting Inc. was the lowest and best bid. Ms. Materni asked if this is for maintenance reasons and not for decorative reasons, which Ms. Sandretto confirmed is true to prevent a water crisis in Perrysburg. The Committee members were curious if the aesthetic piece is included and it is, although it is not determined yet. Ms. Sandretto also noted that this was the first use of their new electronic bid system and that it went well and they are very pleased with it. The Committee has no objections, but wants to have a say in the aesthetic part of the water tower. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend this to Council.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

There were three issues in total, two broken spigots and one broken sump pump.

2022 DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW

Ms. Godsey walked the Public Utilities Committee members through the 2022 department budget. Mr. Smith asked about the Fort Meigs Road ditch work, as well as the multi-use path. Ms. Kabat stated that there will be a scoping meeting on November 1, 2021. Mr. Smith also brought up multiple grant opportunities and wanted to know if we are applying for those. Ms. Kabat stated that grants will slow down the process, but that grants could be used for connection pieces from Sutton Place. The Committee members agreed that the grants could be used to continue the multi-use path after Sutton Place, and suggested looking at that while this project is being worked through.

Ms. Kabat noted that Public Utilities is requesting four new positions total, three operators/field employees and one supervisor overseeing everything out in the field. Mr. Smith asked about the replacement of water valves. Ms. Godsey explained that these are water valves mostly in intersections where water lines cross because if there is a water main break, the area of concern needs to be isolated in order to reduce the total number of customers impacted. Mr. VanHoozen asked if there is a timeline we are being given. Ms. Godsey said that it is a five year period, which we are already in to, so we will be asking for some forbearance at the next inspection. Mr. Smith asked if the Committee could see a job description for the four new positions.

Mr. Smith asked about the reroute for the sanitary sewers and if it will help with some of the SSOs and CSOs. Ms. Godsey stated that it is an issue on the south side of Grassy Creek and it is not causing backups. Mr. Smith also asked if there is anything not in the budget that they would like to see in there. Ms. Godsey responded that they were not denied any requests and that they do appreciate the replacement vehicles, but there was not anything on their wish list per say. Ms. Materni asked about the water tower and if there are contingency funds in place. Ms. Godsey stated that yes there is ten percent, spelled out in the resolution. Mr. VanHoozen asked if there is anything being held off for the amended budget in their department. Ms. Kabat stated that nothing is being held off, unless a 2021 project carries over and was not already budgeted for.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith asked about our waste water treatment plant's capacity. Ms. Godsey stated that there is a growth ability for new homes or developments. There was some discussion between Ms. Godsey, Ms. Kabat, and the Committee members regarding overflows.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Monday, November 29, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.