PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

AUGUST 28, 2019

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

CITIZEN BILLING DISPUTE – MS. TERESA SOZERI, 2099 LEXINGTON DRIVE

Izzet and Teresa Sozeri of 2099 Lexington Drive were present to discuss a high water bill that they received. The Sozeris stated that the Department of Public Utilities tested the meter, and watched the testing procedures. The test found the meter to be working properly. Mr. & Mrs. Sozeri are certain they did not use the water reflected on their bill. It was noted that the consumption appears to be back to normal. Mr. Smith informed the Sozeris that the Committee can only review the sewer charges and typically they review situations where there is proof that the water did not enter the sanitary sewer system. He recommended that they get a plumber to see if they can find a problem. Ms. Alkire said that she will look into what options the Committee has. Mr. Weber asked if Ms. Godsey could check with the manufacturer of the meter to see if they have had any similar situations where the meter malfunctioned and then worked properly again. Mr. Sozeri also called attention to a sewer issue that they had recently where there was a back-up into their bathroom. Mr. Smith mentioned that Ms. Godsey emailed the Sozeris and told them to send her their receipts and the City would submit it to our insurance company.

CONDITION OF DITCH IN FRONT OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH BOUNDARY

Ms. Kabat distributed a map to the Committee that showed what sections of the ditch in front of the Junior High are in the right of way and what sections are privately owned. She added that there has been no flooding problems. Mr. Weber said that he believes we are hearing about it because it's unsightly in front of the school. There was discussion regarding what authority the City has over the privately owned portions. There was also discussion about Grassy Creek and structures that have been built in it.

APPROVE CHANGE ORDERS 2 AND 3 FOR PINE MULBERRY WATER LINE PROJECT

Ms. Godsey requested approval of change orders 2 and 3 on the contract with Vernon Nagel for the Pine/Mulberry water line project. She explained that change order 1 was approved administratively because it was a time extension and there were no costs involved. Ms. Godsey said that change order 2 is for $32,333.95 and involves various unforeseen utility conflicts. Change order 3 involves a review of final quantities at the end of the project and is a credit of $13,012.72, for a net increase of $19,321.23. Ms. Godsey requested that the change orders be approved as an emergency because the work has already been performed, and we are ready to close out the project and issue the final payment. Mr. Smith asked if any consideration had been given to paving an extra couple of feet for bikes on future projects on main roads. There was a discussion regarding the use of funds, state law, and multi-use paths. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the change orders.

WATER OPTIONS UPDATE

Mr. Smith asked if the Administration had received anything from the consultant about Bowling Green water. Ms. Kabat said that they will have the report by the end of the week. She added that the City of Toledo is holding a public hearing on September 3 and will be voting that night and they feel they have the votes to pass the contract. Toledo's utility and legal representatives will then be available to make a presentation at a Committee of the Whole meeting. Mr. Smith attended the first public hearing with the City of Toledo. At that hearing, Toledo mentioned that they will be giving the suburbs 45 days to make a decision. Ms. Alkire said that she had not heard that. Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Kabat and Ms. Godsey for their work throughout this multiyear process and said that he has heard from other communities that they've done a great job. Ms. Kabat said that she has heard from the other attorneys that Ms. Alkire has been wonderful during this process. Ms. Godsey stated that the Northwestern Water and Sewer District will be holding a meeting at the Quality Inn on September 5 at 6:30 p.m. and she will be attending.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.