PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

JULY 25, 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 was Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Paul Eckel, 11857 Eckel Junction Road, said that he used to live at 12309 Eckel Junction Road.. Mr. Eckel said that he has continued to receive a sewer bill after the property has been sold, and he requested a refund. He provided copies of his bills. Ms. Godsey said that she was not aware of this situation and will research it. She asked for contact information so she could reach out to Mr. Eckel.

MOTIONS ON SEWER APPEALS

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a sewer credit in the amount of $1,911.13 for Drew McIntyre, 1843 Lexington Drive. Mr. McIntyre's sump pump float malfunctioned and the water back-up sump pump ran for an extended period of time. The faulty equipment has been replaced, and the Department of Public Utilities verified that the water from the back-up sump pump did not enter the sanitary sewer system. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of this request.

Ms. Godsey also requested approval of a sewer credit in the amount of $1,744.08 for Benjamin Sweetser, 681 Streamview Drive. The alarm system on Mr. Sweetser's sump pump failed. It has been repaired, and the Department of Public Utilities verified that the water from the sump pump did not enter the sanitary sewer system. The Committee also agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of this credit.

TRANSPORTATION – SELECTING PROVIDER FOR CONTRACTED SERVICES

Tim Fisher, Deputy Finance Director, reported that fourteen invitations to bid for the City's transit service were sent out and an advertisement was placed in the Blade for two weeks. The only bid received was from Ride Right, our current provider. Mr. Fisher said that the bid reflects a 3.8% rate increase. The contract will be for three years with the possibility of two one year extensions. There are three major changes to the contract: an increase in the amount of insurance coverage Ride Right is required to carry from one million to ten million dollars; language regarding a fixed route was removed because it was decided that a fixed route was not effective; and Ride Right will be required to have maintenance software for the vehicles. Mr. Ghanbari asked about the dollar amount of the 3.8% increase. Mr. Fisher said that the hourly rate will be $69.98 and is limited to 550 service hours per month. There was discussion regarding complaints that have been received in the past, and about the turnbacks, or rides that Ride Right has had to turn down. Mr. Fisher explained that peak hours are 12-2 and 5-6 and they cannot always fit in the desired rides during those peak hours. Ride Right provides the City with a list of all

turnbacks each month, and that number is normally a dozen or less. Mr. Smith asked if there has been any thought to providing transportation for special events. Mr. Fisher said that they meet quarterly so it can be discussed, and in the past Ride Right has provided transportation for a Blue Star event. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract with Ride Right.

AUTHORIZE OPWC FUNDING APPLICATION FOR HICKORY, LOOMIS, ORCHARD WATER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Ms. Godsey requested permission to apply for a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission for the Hickory, Loomis, Orchard water line replacement project. She said that the grant application has not been completed, and we can request up to $275,000, but she will have to look at the points to see what amount gives us the best chance for approval. She said that the estimate of construction costs is one million dollars and they plan to include it in the 2019 budget. Mr. Smith asked if the grant is not approved if we would still move forward with the project. Ms. Godsey said that we would still do the project even if we are not successful with the grant application. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the funding application.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ghanbari asked Ms. Godsey if she has heard from the EPA regarding the alternatives for Grassy Creek that the City submitted to them. Ms. Godsey said that she contacted them the second week of July and was told the person she needed to talk to was on vacation. She said that she will follow-up with them.

Mr. Ghanbari said that he will follow-up with Mr. Wetzel to get something set up since Ms. Kabat has not heard back from him.

Mr. Smith said that a representative from Poggemeyer will be at the August committee meeting to give a presentation on the Bowling Green study. He said that he will be inviting all Council members to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.