

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

JULY 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Jan Materni, Jonathan Smith, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present was Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Izzet Sozeri, manager of the Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Boulevard, was present because they were charged penalty on their March water and sewer bill although the check was issued on March 5th and the due date was March 16th. He said the City did not post the check until March 26th. Mr. Sozeri said that they have not been late before, and he asked the Committee to waive the penalty. Mr. Smith said that they had a similar issue with another business and they have changed the Code to address this situation in the future because if the bill is postmarked by the due date it will be considered paid on time. The Committee questioned whether City Council has the authority to waive this penalty since it happened in the past. There was discussion about issues with the mail and other customers that contacted the Director because their bills were not received by the due date. Mr. Smith said that they will check with the Law Director to see what can be done and will get back to Mr. Sozeri.

ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR EAST RIVER ROAD WATER CONNECTION

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a contract with Proudfoot Associates in an amount not to exceed \$144,835 for engineering services and temporary easements for a directional drill project that will go directly from Toledo's water line to our line and will remove us from the Northwestern Water and Sewer District line. Ms. Godsey stated that we pay the District in the range of \$700,000 per year for use of their line. She said that Toledo has a stub waterline in the area of Ford Road and the turnpike. This project will be a 24" water line from the Toledo to our line. The not to exceed amount includes \$127,335 for engineering services and for twenty permanent and temporary construction easements at \$875.00 each. The exact number of easements needed is not yet known. Ms. Godsey said that four firms responded to the RFQ and Proudfoot was selected based on ranking. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval.

WATER METER SURVEY INFO

Ms. Godsey distributed the results of a survey that shows information about water meters in other communities to see if there were any instances of unexplained spikes in customers' usage. The Committee reviewed the information and discussed the benefits of a fixed based system. This system allows a customer's meter to be read constantly. Ms. Godsey said that several years ago she had a cost for the system, and they are looking at putting it in the 2021 budget, but it will be a multi-year project. The Committee agreed that we need to move in that direction.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Ms. Godsey provided the Committee with a list of sewer credits under \$1,000 that were approved for 2019 and year to date in 2020. There was discussion regarding dye testing,

and Ms. Godsey said that back in 2015 they established a policy that if a customer had an issue with a sump pump and they were requesting a credit in excess of \$500, a dye test would be required to ensure that the water was going into the storm sewer and not the sanitary sewer. Mr. Smith suggested that if a dye test were required for all sewer credit requests involving a sump pump, it might help in finding unauthorized connections that are contributing to our combined sewer & sanitary sewer overflows. Mr. Smith said that if it is found that the sump pump goes to the sanitary sewer, the City can help with costs through the grant program. Mr. VanHoozen said that he appreciates the intent, but there could be push back. Ms. Godsey said if the Committee had any questions to call or email her.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. VanHoozen asked how many CSO's there were with Sunday's rain. Ms. Godsey said there were three.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.