

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

MAY 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Jan Materni, Jonathan Smith, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting were approved.

PRESENTATION ON H2OHIO

Joy Mulinex, Executive Director of Ohio Lake Erie Commission, Matt Lane, Ohio Department of Agriculture Soil Scientist, and Dr. Chris Winslow, Director of Ohio Sea Grant and Ohio State University's Stone Lab were present via Zoom to give a presentation regarding Ohio's phosphorus reduction goals for the Maumee River Watershed. They gave an overview of Governor DeWine's H2Ohio initiative to create long term water quality solutions. They said that the most notable problem is harmful algal blooms in the Western Lake Erie Basin. As of 2008, Ohio's portion of the Maumee River Watershed contributed approximately 2.5 million pounds of phosphorus into Lake Erie each spring. Research indicates that a one million pound (40%) reduction in Ohio's portion of the Maumee River Watershed's spring phosphorus load will dramatically reduce harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. They explained that H2Ohio's goal is for Ohio to contribute no more than 1.5 million pounds of phosphorus from the Maumee River Watershed into Lake Erie each spring. They said that over 1,800 farmers representing over one million acres have signed up to adopt at least one of the ten best practices. The Committee members followed up the presentation with a series of questions to the presenters. Mr. Smith asked if this initiative is utilizing any of the techniques contained in the Chesapeake Bay order from the Obama-era. Dr. Winslow said that they are very different systems, and they are learning from each other. Ms. Mulinex said that they have no opinion on that order; their directive is to reduce the phosphorus load by 40%. Dr. Campbell was also present. He said that he would have comments for the next City Council meeting. Mr. Smith said that he will distribute the slides to all of City Council so it can be discussed at the next meeting.

FORT MEIGS ROAD MUP FEASIBILITY STUDY

Michael Gramza, engineer from Bergmann, reviewed the feasibility study done regarding a multi-use path on Fort Meigs Road. He stated that the study covers from Eckel Junction Road to Sutton Place. He said that as recommended by ODOT and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), multi-use paths should have a minimum width of ten feet. Mr. Gramza presented two options. The first option is to put the multi-use path on the west side of the road. The estimated cost is \$820,000 which would include the cleaning of the ditch. The second option is to put the multi-use path on the east side of the road. However, additional right-of-way would need to be obtained. The estimated cost is \$1,150,000 and that does not include cleaning the ditch. He said that all vegetation would be removed from the ditch, but it would be back within a couple of years. Mr. Smith asked if there were any concerns with the gas line that runs through that area. Mr. Gramza said that it goes through the easement, and it would

just have to be worked around. Mr. Smith said the ditch goes past Sutton Place. Mr. Gramza said although the study goes to Sutton Place, he would recommend running the multi-use path up to SR65 on the south side of the road with a crossing at North Ridge. There was some discussion regarding funding sources. The Committee agreed that option 1 was the best option and recommended that we look at a timeline, permitting, and funding sources. Ms. Kabat said she and Ms. Godsey are meeting with the City Engineer, and they will add this to the list to be discussed.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Ms. Godsey reported that there were no big credits in the last month, and the total credits approved were just over \$471 for a total year to date of \$3,309.51.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Godsey stated that the 2020 report of CSO's is on the City's website, and the Public Information Officer will be posting each incident. Mr. Smith asked that the grant program information also be added to remind citizens that funds are available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.