

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

MAY 24, 2017

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

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Renee Bergquist, 546 W. South Boundary Street, was present along with Lisa Harman, her case worker from the Wood County Children's Resource Center. Ms. Bergquist said that her April 1, 2017 water and sewer bill was over \$6,000 including the late fee. She said that she has lived there for two years and her typical bill is between \$200 and \$300 a quarter. Ms. Harman explained that Ms. Bergquist is a single mother with two special needs children who require therapy. Ms. Bergquist went on vacation in December and when she returned home she found a for sale sign in her yard. She also heard her sump pump running and she called a contractor who came over a few days later and found that one of her outside spigots had been tampered with. Ms. Godsey said that typically when they receive a request for a sewer credit it is the result of something that has been fixed. She said that she feels the vandalism is credible, but she cannot verify it, plus the amount is too large for her to approve so she had to bring it to City Council. Ms. Godsey added that they normally only spread payments for large bills out over a one year period. Ms. Bergquist said that she already works two jobs, but she could pick up extra shifts to pay an additional monthly amount, but not enough to pay it off within one year. Ms. Harman explained that Ms. Bergquist may lose some benefits for her sons if she has to work enough to get this paid off in a year. The Committee felt comfortable that the water did not enter the sanitary sewer system and agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of a motion granting a sewer credit in the amount of \$2,884.23. The Committee also agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of a motion waiving the late fee and allowing the Department of Public Utilities to make arrangements with Ms. Bergquist for a two year payment plan for the balance of the bill.

SEWER APPEAL

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a sewer appeal in the amount of \$1,949.38 for Barbara Huy, 504 Ballybay Court as a result of a sump pump failure and the water backup system shut off failed. The Department of Public Utilities verified that the water did not go down the sanitary sewer. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of a motion granting the sewer appeal.

AUTHORIZE AWARD OF BID, CSSD 211 PHASE 2

Ms. Godsey reported that bids were opened for Phase 2 of Cherry Street Sewer Separation District 211. Five bids were received ranging from \$1.78 million to \$2.175 million. The low bid received was from E.S. Wagner of Oregon, Ohio for \$1,780,956.94 which is below the engineer's estimate of \$2,005,000. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of a contract with E. S. Wagner.

AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION PHASE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CSSD 211 PHASE 2

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a contract with Arcadis for design engineering services during the construction phase of Cherry Street Sewer Separation District 211 Phase 2 in the amount of \$59,600.00. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract.

AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND RPR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CSSD 211 PHASE 2

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a contract not to exceed \$187,000 with CT Consultants for construction administration and RPR engineering services for Cherry Street Sewer Separation District 211 Phase 2. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval.

AUTHORIZE RFP AND RFQ FOR STORMWATER MASTER PLAN – AREA NEAR GRASSY CREEK AND SOUTH BOUNDARY

Ms. Godsey requested permission to solicit RFQ's and RFP's for a Stormwater Drainage Facilities Master Plan. There is \$340,000 budgeted for this plan. Mr. Smith asked what the purpose of the plan is. Ms. Godsey said that we know there are sporadic storm sewers in the area bounded by Grassy Creek, Findlay, Mulberry, South Boundary, East Boundary, and Sandusky Streets. This will be a general plan to give us routes for storm sewers and a rough cost estimate. It is more of a feasibility plan and is not a detailed design for the storm sewers. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the resolution.

UPDATE CHAPTER 1057 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Ms. Godsey requested approval of changes to Chapter 1057 regarding Stormwater Management Regulations. She said the changes incorporate updated requirements of the Ohio EPA for construction site stormwater control and post construction requirements. She said that these changes are a move towards development projects paying for themselves. Mr. Smith asked about the bond requirement and asked if this is a surety bond. Ms. Godsey said that it will be a cash bond. Mr. VanHoozen suggested that the word bond be changed to deposit. Ms. Williams asked when this was last updated and Ms. Godsey said it was in 2012. Mr. Smith asked how this will affect existing projects. Ms. Godsey said that the only new thing is the review fee and she said that the date of August 1 could be added as the implementation date for the review fee. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the updates with the change of the word bond to deposit.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding when water and sewer bills are issued relative to the due date. Mr. Smith said that the mail is taking longer and he received some feedback from residents. Ms. Godsey stated that ACH, where the City withdraws the money from the resident's account on the due date, is an alternative.

Ms. Williams asked when the section of East Boundary Street in front of Kingston Residence that was dug up because of a water break would be repaved. Ms. Godsey said that she will find out and email the committee.

There was a brief discussion about emails concerning Advocates for Clean Lake Erie. Ms. Godsey said that we don't know what the impact on the City would be.

Mr. VanHoozen asked about the emergency connection to Bowling Green water. Ms. Godsey said that it is in the Northwestern Water and Sewer District's hands to submit the report to the Ohio EPA. They are the lead on the project and we are a funding partner. Ms. Godsey noted that this is just a feasibility study for the connection.

Mr. Smith said that there are some sinkholes near manholes at the cemetery along SR25 and he asked that the Department of Public Utilities take a look at them.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.