

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

MAY 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Haraz N. Ghanbari, Jonathan Smith, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present was Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities, and Tim Fisher, Deputy Finance Director.

MOTION ON SEWER APPEAL – 109 W. FIFTH STREET

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a sewer billing adjustment for James Delph, homeowner, and Jeff & Melissa Kies, tenants at the time, of 109 W. Fifth Street. The property had no consumption history as the tenants had only lived there a short time. The consumption bill showed 60,600 cubic feet used. The outdoor spigot was covered, and was believed to have been done maliciously during the winter months. The landlord submitted a written statement that the concern was found in February. At that time the spigot was shut off, and the tenant provided a written statement as well as photos. Ms. Godsey requested that a sewer billing adjustment of \$4,007.81 be granted. Mr. Ghanbari asked about the high consumption meter reading process, and Ms. Godsey stated that there is a leaking indicator on the actual meter, which is not read remotely, only physically. Ms. Kabat added that there will be new billing technology coming. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the sewer billing adjustment.

MOTION ON SEWER APPEAL – 860 SANDALWOOD ROAD WEST

Ms. Godsey requested approval of a sewer credit for Mr. Grime, 860 Sandalwood Road West. The consumption history is 3,300 cubic feet per quarter, and the meter had a high reading in October of 2017 and January of 2018. After these high readings the Division of Public Utilities left notice to the homeowner of both of these instances. The resident replied in writing with an issue with the backup sump pump, and stated that he adjusted the flow. He said that he did not need to purchase parts. At that time the city performed a dye test because of the dollar amount involved, and took another reading. The city notified the resident in April that an active leak was still present. Mr. Grime wrote a letter stating that the high consumption was due to an outside faucet that had since been closed. He said that he was unsure of the time period. Ms. Godsey stated that the May bill was down slightly to 6,000 cubic feet which includes the outside faucet running. She added that nothing was broken nor had been repaired, but that this did occur during a time when outdoor consumption would not be purposeful. Ms. Godsey requested that a sewer credit of \$1,717.68 be granted. Mr. Ghanbari stated that he is concerned with the ongoing issues. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the sewer credit.

PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Fisher noted that the citizens of Perrysburg recently voted to fund public transportation for another 5 years through property taxes. Mr. Fisher stated that he is requesting approval to send RFP's out to collect bids on contractor transportation services. He added that the current contract with Ride Right has been extended through July 31, 2018 so that there is no gap in service. Ms. Kabat said that the RFP's are following the same process from 5 years ago, with a few modifications. These services

are described as on-demand, without a fixed route. There was further discussion about a fixed route, and special events being included on the RFP. Ms. Kabat also stated that she is requesting approval to extend Ride Right's contract through July 31, 2018 as well. There was additional discussion related to the vehicles used, the cost per hour, and the companies that the RFP's are sent out to. Mr. Fisher confirmed that Ride Right has stated that they will be submitting a bid for the new contract. Ms. Kabat added that the city is reimbursed from the levy, as the \$1.00 fare that each rider is charged does not completely fund the services. There was further discussion related to the budget and the destinations and or routes that are affected by these services. Mr. Fisher added that there are quarterly meetings held with the contracted company where performance and reports are discussed. Mr. Smith asked if a surplus figure could be sent out, and Mr. Fisher confirmed. Mr. Smith asked if a public partnership or ride sharing such as with Uber or Lyft would be an option, and Mr. Fisher stated that a fully staffed office is required in the RFP for the citizens; which neither Uber nor Lyft provides. Mr. Ghanbari suggested a recommendation of extending the current contract with Ride Right for 2 months out, through September 1, 2018. The Committee agreed 3-0 to strike the 1 month extension, and to recommend approval of a 2 month extension on the current contract. The Committee also agreed 3-0 to strike the August language throughout the document on pages 10 and 14, and to recommend approval of September language throughout the document.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE UTILITY TRUCK

The item has been moved to next month's agenda.

FT. MEIGS DITCH

Jackie Venzel, 1583 Watermill Lane, spoke on behalf of herself and her neighbors regarding their concerns with the removal of trees and maintenance of the ditch. She added that she is disappointed in the year and a half decision of removing the trees. Mr. Ghanbari stated that he is still not in favor of bottom dipping the ditch, and that he has walked the ditch recently. He noted the cattails in the ditch near Eckel Junction and Ft. Meigs, and the pipes are clogged, and sewer drains are backed up, he added that he has seen the water flowing. Ms. Kabat stated that she does not have any updates.

Doug Brown, 1780 Lexington Drive, asked what precipitated the decision to clean the ditch in the first place. Ms. Godsey stated that drainage complaints were received on the southern end of the ditch, and it was noted that there was a silt build-up in the culverts, and so the decision was made to clean the ditch to remove the sediment. She noted that it is common industry practice to start at the downstream end and work towards the upstream end. Mr. Brown noted that the sidewalk has been affected, and will likely need to be replaced. Mr. Smith added that City Council voted to stop the process, which then prompted the ditch maintenance guide to be created. There was further discussion about the sediment line-up which has started to erode the base of the ditch bank. Ms. Godsey noted that at the time of the ditch cleaning, they will follow the guidelines of the ditch maintenance agreement, which includes notification of residents and the proper cleaning course to follow. There was a conversation about the non-native species of trees that can do more harm than good.

Debbie Testen, 1804 Lexington Drive, stated that she believes that this ditch cleaning has been done haphazardly, and that no notice was given to the residents. She added that the sidewalk has a drop-off, and the lack of fencing is dangerous to the children that are walking to school along Ft. Meigs Road. Mr. Smith stated that he would prefer that the sidewalk be moved to the other side of the street. Ms. Kabat added that the sidewalk was never intended to be there, but on the west side of the ditch. Ms. Kabat and Mr. Smith confirmed that the sidewalk will always fall towards the ditch because there is not enough room between the sidewalk and the ditch. There was further discussion about a multi-use path, and the cost, from Ft. Meigs Road to Eckel Junction Road.

Terry Testen, 1804 Lexington Drive, asked about the budget for the project in the three phases that it was originally set at. Ms. Kabat added that the budget was initially for what is currently underway, which is Phase 1, and is roughly budgeted for \$69,000.00. Mr. Smith stated that he believes that it is time to look at this as one whole project. Ms. Godsey added that City Council asked for a ditch maintenance guide to be prepared. She added that Hull and Associates was hired to prepare the guide book, based on Ohio and other state's comprehensive guidelines.

Rachel Schmitz, 1591 Watermill Lane, added from her understanding that vegetation does not add silt back up. She said that she has contacted professors at The Ohio State University, and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding this stream, and her concerns with the trees that have been removed. Ms. Godsey added that the culvert in question is in the cattail area, and that the city has tried to clean it manually to no avail. Hull & Associates has documented that it is important to remove the sediment at the bottom of the ditch to be able to restore the alignment at the bottom of the ditch.

Mr. Smith noted the need to discuss the base design fee for the topographical survey, and the slope study upstream from Sutton Place down to Eckel Junction Road. Ms. Godsey stated that this study is to prepare, plan, and profile the ditch cleaning operation, as well as to prepare bidding documents. Ms. Kabat added that CT Consultants has been the selected pre-qualified firm for this study. There was further discussion about the proposal quote. Mr. Ghanbari confirmed that to do the whole stretch of ditch that has already been touched will roughly cost \$100,000.00 to finish. Ms. Venzel asked that the city go back and receive an estimate on a manual cleaning of the ditch. Ms. Kabat added that Hull & Associates physically walked the ditch with city staff and showed them certain parts, with an end result that the bottom needed to be cleaned, from Sutton Place to Eckel Junction. Mr. Smith addressed the issue between routine and non-routine maintenance. Ms. Schmitz asked if there are other options or alternatives with this project in order to preserve more trees. Mr. VanHoozen stated that it's his understanding that the elevation piece needs to be addressed. Mr. Ghanbari raised his concerns, and added that the Army Corps of Engineers has been requested to walk the ditch, as well as Paul Whetzel. Ms. Schmitz added that she is satisfied with another option, and Mr. Ghanbari added that he will continue the dialogue with the concerned residents.

Jim Hagen, 10741 Avenue Road, asked if the City owns both sides of the ditch, and Ms. Kabat confirmed that the City does indeed own the ditch. He added that the longer the city waits, the more money will be spent on this project.

Mr. Ghanbari asked the variable with the Army Corps of Engineers coming in, and Committee discussed the fact that this project needs to continue to move forward. Mr. Ghanbari asked whether this quote is to authorize the elevation study from Sutton Place to Eckel Junction along Ft. Meigs Road, and next steps. Ms. Godsey added that it's preparing plans and specifications for a set of bidding documents. Mr. Ghanbari stated that a baseline study is needed for 10 - 20 years down the road, and Ms. Kabat added that the topographical study would address these matters. Mr. Smith added that erosion is a big deal. Mr. Ghanbari said that he does not support the study that, as he believes that it means the ditch needs to be bottom dipped, and that he's inclined not to spend the money on bottom dipping, but to work to get the fences back up and to get the sidewalks stabilized. The Committee voted 2-1 to recommend this proposal to City Council.

Ms. Kabat added that she had a few more columns to fill out related to this project, such as fencing types, cost of guard rails, etc. Mr. Smith continued to suggest a multi-use path on the east side of the road, which would double as a sidewalk. There was further discussion about cost, repairs, and the plan going forward.

WATER OPTIONS

Ms. Kabat stated that the city is working on what a rate could be with the City of Toledo and TMACOG. She added that the city is continuing steps with the MOU, as well as looking into multiple viable options elsewhere. Mr. Smith asked about the current contract with the City of Toledo, and Ms. Kabat stated that there is no limitation on sources of water with the agreement. Mr. Smith also asked about the water treatment option with the NWWSD. TMACOG has a regional water committee that formed a technical sub-committee that deal with the regional water jurisdictions. Mr. VanHoozen added that the financial and accounting areas are missing within the agreements, and Ms. Kabat stated that the others are now providing their budgets. Mr. Ghanbari inquired about the big water aquifer that was recently discovered in Napoleon, and Ms. Godsey stated that that's the ground water option. She added that the pumping and the pipelines would be the biggest cost, but that the treatments would be more simplified. Ms. Kabat said that she hopes to start sending numbers to Council shortly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.