

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

MAY 22, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Jonathan Smith. Committee members present were Jonathan Smith, Barry VanHoozen, and Mark Weber. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Laura Alkire, Law Director, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CONTRACT WITH INVOICE CLOUD FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Ms. Godsey reported that they have been researching alternative companies to handle credit card payments made by customers. She stated that Invoice Cloud is one of two companies that work directly with BS & A, the new software the Department of Public Utilities is going to be using. She said that Invoice Cloud integrates directly into the BS & A software so they will be notified of credit card payments within seconds as opposed to the next day as they currently are. No action was requested, this was an informational item.

EXTEND ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH AECOM FOR CSO OPTIONS

Ms. Alkire called attention to a request to approve change order number four with AECOM in the amount of \$11,300 to obtain additional information for the Ohio EPA. Ms. Kabat said that the first change order was because of a dry period and change orders two and three were also for additional information requested by the Ohio EPA. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the change order as requested.

METER READING PROCEDURE

Ms. Godsey said that she updated the information prepared in 2016 regarding the cost to manually read the meters of the customers who have objected to getting a radio read remote. She said that in 2016 the cost was \$10.50, and the cost in 2019 is \$11.80 per reading. The customers are being charged \$12.00 per reading. At last month's meeting, two of these customers were present and objected to the extra charge because they feel that since the utility employees are driving around to pick up the readings from the radio read remotes, they are already in their neighborhood. Ms. Kabat said that there are dollars in the 2019 budget to get a fixed base reader. Ms. Godsey explained that when they go to the fixed base reader, they will not have to drive around and get the readings, there will be two antennas placed in town that will pick up the readings. Mr. Smith asked that these customers be given the updated information that Ms. Godsey provided.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION UPDATE

Ms. Kabat provided handouts to the Committee with backflow prevention information. She stated that the Department of Public Utilities is in the process of sending letters to customers without backflow devices, those with improper devices, and those that do not have an updated inspection report. There was discussion regarding what the backflow prevention requirements are for other communities. Ms. Kabat was asked if she sees us requiring backflow prevention for residential customers. Ms. Kabat said that it would depend on the EPA requirements, and currently they are working on getting a system in

place to ensure that commercial and industrial customers are in compliance. Mr. Smith noted that there is a significant difference in cost between the RPZ that is required by the City versus other options such as a double check system. Ms. Kabat said that the difference is that in case of a failure with a double check system the water goes back into the public water system but with an RPZ it is contained in that building. There was discussion regarding the consequences for failure to comply. Ms. Alkire said that our utilities department has a responsibility to enforce EPA rules and they have to be uniform across the board. Mr. Smith asked if City Council has the authority to make a decision regarding the type of device required. Ms. Alkire said that they do not have the authority; it is not a legislative issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Administration requested approval of a change order not to exceed \$10,000 with Arcadis for design engineering services for the Pine/Mulberry Street water line project. The original contract was for \$24,700 which is under the threshold that can be approved administratively so it did not come to City Council. This change order would make it above that level and that is why it is coming to the Committee. Mr. Smith asked what caused the increase and the delay of the project since the road was supposed to be reopened after 90 days. Ms. Kabat said that there was a bridge abutment that was buried underground and one or two other unforeseen circumstances. They are currently working on reworking the grade or slope of the road to meet up with the driveway aprons and to drain off correctly. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the change order.

Mr. Smith said that Ms. Kabat gave a water update at the City Council meeting the previous evening, but he asked that the topic be kept on the committee agenda also. Ms. Kabat said that Ms. Alkire met with the legal representatives of the other communities and with the City of Toledo to discuss concerns the contract communities had with the contract. Toledo is now working on a revised draft. Ms. Kabat also said that Ms. Godsey would be meeting the following day with Maumee and the District regarding Bowling Green water. She said that discussions regarding the aquifer are at a standstill until the State makes a decision on whether they will be funding a study on the aquifer. Mr. Smith said that he heard that Toledo won't be making a decision until January. Ms. Alkire said that she has heard that they will vote on the contract before the November election and the contracting communities have told Toledo that they need to vote first. Mr. Smith recommended that City Council have a Committee of the Whole meeting so the City of Toledo can make their presentation to all of Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairman
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.