

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

APRIL 27, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Kevin Fuller. Committee members present were Kevin Fuller, Jan Materni, and Jonathan Smith. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, and Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Mr. Fuller said that he received an email about a buildup of debris in the drainage ditch on White Road near Wentworth Court. Both Mr. Fuller and Mr. Smith said that they looked at the map and it appears that it is in the public portion of the ditch. Ms. Godsey said that she will look into it.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES

With no objections, the minutes of the March 23, 2022 meeting were approved.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Ms. Godsey reported that there were no sewer credits in March, but there have been five since her last report. The credits were due to an outside faucet that was left on, a broken water line, and back-up sump pump issues. This brings the total year to date to \$3,859.

DISCUSSION ON STORMWATER

There was discussion regarding capital costs involved with stormwater issues, eliminating the SSO issue at Maple Street/Grassy Creek, and reduction of CSO's. Ms. Godsey said that all of those projects will have an impact on ratepayers. The AECOM report offered options to eliminate the SSO. The least expensive option was option #1, but Jones and Henry Engineers have raised questions regarding constructability issues for that option. They are currently evaluating the other options, and we have notified the Ohio EPA that it will take longer than we had anticipated. Ms. Kabat said that the OEPA doesn't really care about stormwater. She said that they want to do an integrated plan to cover all three layers, but it is not an overnight fix, and our priority has been the areas we can get cited on and that could prevent renewal of our NPDES permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Committee discussed the grant program that helps homeowners pay to have clean water connections removed from their sanitary sewer connection. Ms. Godsey said that we can do another push of the grant program, but we are right around the corner from the City getting aggressive about making homeowners do it because the connections are illegal. There was discussion about rain barrels and rain gardens and the possibility of a grant program to encourage their use. Mr. Smith asked about education on the various programs at the Farmers' Market, etc. Ms. Kabat said that the Chamber has offered space to the City, and the PIO is working on it.

AMENDMENT TO CODIFIED ORDINANCE 1060.06 (b), RULE 25

Ms. Godsey said that the Administration is proposing repealing Rule 25 which would eliminate landlords allowing their tenants to put the water and sewer service in their name. Ms. Godsey said

that the proposal to repeal this is because current Ohio law does not allow unpaid utility bills to be placed on property tax bills unless the property owner occupies the property. Mr. Smith asked if this would allow a landlord to turn the water off on a tenant. Ms. Sandretto said that we would only turn the water off if the bill was unpaid. Mr. Fuller asked what would happen if the tenant was not delinquent but the landlord didn't pay the bill. Ms. Sandretto said there is no perfect system, but she suggested that this be deferred until next month and she will think about options.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fuller said that he is not able to make the tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plan on May 4th, and he asked if there was a second date. Ms. Godsey said that there were a couple of other Council members going on May 6th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fuller, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.