HEALTH, SANITATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

MARCH 26, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Todd Grayson. Committee members present were: Todd Grayson, John Kevern and Tim McCarthy. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat, Law Director Mathew Beredo, Public Service Director Jon Eckel, and Director of Public Utilities Tim Warren.

RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY CSSD 210

Mr. Warren stated that a resolution of necessity is needed to proceed with Cherry Street Sewer Separation District 210. This resolution authorizes the City to notify the affected property owners with the amount of the assessment and provides them an opportunity to object. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the resolution.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND APPLICATION FOR WWTP IMROVEMENTS – PHASE III

Mr. Warren distributed a schedule for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase III improvements. This is scheduled to be bid out later this year. Mr. Warren said the estimated cost is $10 million dollars so we are looking at financing options. One option is to borrow from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund which has an interest rate of 2.38% with a term of twenty years. This could result in an interest savings of over $1.5 million dollars as opposed to using GO Bonds. Mr. Grayson said that the interest rate is below market and he asked who subsidizes this. Mr. Warren said it is the Federal Government. Mr. Grayson said that he prefers doing whatever we can to stay away from subsidies that come from money that does not exist. Mr. Warren said no action is being requested at this time. There is a meeting set with the Ohio EPA and he will have a better feel of it by the next Committee meeting.

LOUISIANA AVENUE WATER MAIN REPAIR

Mr. Warren gave an update on a water valve on a 10” main that has been leaking on Louisiana Avenue in front of the Commodore Building, across from O’Deer Diner. A valve was installed on a nearby 4” main to isolate the businesses that were serviced by this line, and now only the library will be affected when this is repaired. Mr. Grayson asked why we did not hire a contractor to fix this months ago. Mr. Warren stated we have the capability to fix it, and it was prioritized like all breaks are. There was no threat of immediate risk because the water was going down a nearby storm sewer. Mr. Warren said he got a rough estimate from Underground Utilities and their cost to repair this would have been about $28,000 which is three or four times the cost of us repairing it ourselves. Mr. Grayson asked about the cost of the water that was being lost. Mr. Warren stated that all water systems leak and Perrysburg’s system is actually pretty tight with only an 8-9% loss, which is exceptional. Mr. Grayson stated that he feels it is important for him to learn about these things as a representative of the taxpayers. Mr. McCarthy said if he received inquiries, he would direct taxpayers to Mr. Warren to explain how it is being handled because that is why we hire experts in this field.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Warren gave an update on the meter replacement program. He said that there are approximately 9,000 metered accounts and the useful life of a meter is 15-20 years. He said there are roughly 1,500 left to be replaced. The two main reasons they are being replaced is because they are old and have reached the end of their useful life. When meters get old they run slowly which means the City may be losing money because more water is being used than what is registering on the meter. Secondly, by switching to a radio read remote, it will save the City approximately $70,000 a year in meter reading costs. It used to take twenty days a month to read the meters versus being able to read them all in one day with the newer style remotes.

AGREEMENT WITH TOLEDO EDISON TO BURY THE ELECTRICAL SERVICE AT THE FORT MEIGS ROAD ELEVATED TANK SITE

Mr. Warren requested approval of an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Toledo Edison to bury the electrical service at the site of the Fort Meigs Road elevated tank at a cost of $40,000. Mr. Grayson asked if we have a choice other than to go with Toledo Edison. Mr. Warren said we do not, and that the pole has to be removed before construction of the water tower can begin. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the ordinance.

SEWER BILL CREDIT REQUEST FOR THE GATHERING PLACE

Mr. Warren reported that The Gathering Place located at 1134 Professional Drive had a water line break in a crawl space. They are requesting a sewer credit for the water that did not go down the sewer. That has been calculated to be $1,325.36. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the sewer credit.

UPDATE REGARDING AUTOMATED REFUSE SERVICE

Mr. Eckel reported that the public meetings have been held regarding the transition to automated refuse and recycling service. He stated we are proceeding on schedule to begin the automated pick-up on April 22nd. He said that an individual at one of the public meetings told him that he does not believe that the City can provide this service as inexpensive and effective as the private sector. Mr. Eckel prepared a financial report for this individual to show that it can be done, and he has not heard from him since. There was discussion regarding the projected cost savings by switching to automated service. Mr. Eckel said he is hopeful that in the future the amount of the levy for refuse can be reduced. Ms. Kabat noted that the amounts collected from this and other levies have gone down because of reduced property values so the effect on the General Fund will also have to be considered.

APPROVAL OF SUGGESTED EDITS TO REFUSE/RECYCLE ORDINANCES (1086) TO REFLECT CHANGES IN SERVICE

Mr. Eckel thanked Mr. Beredo for his work on the changes to the refuse and recycling ordinances. He said that the only notable changes are to the size of container and some clarification on construction materials. Mr. Kevern asked if the City will be picking up residents' old garbage cans and recycling bins. Mr. Eckel said that they will be picked up on Saturday, April 27th. Mr. Grayson stated that he had some concerns about people storing their garbage cans outdoors, but those concerns have been addressed. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the changes to Chapter 1086.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Grayson asked about a complaint received from Dave Kienzle about work being done in the right of way near Riverplace. Ms Kabat stated that Mr. Kienzle was not happy that he was not notified prior to Columbia Gas doing the work. The project was done on a Friday and by Saturday morning there was no dirt on the sidewalk or in landscaping. Ms. Kabat stated that although they have to get a permit and it would be a nice gesture, there is no requirement that an entity notify people in the vicinity of where they will be working.

Ms. Kabat stated that Mr. Grayson had sent her an email regarding Ride Right. She said that the Administration has been waiting for direction from the Committee to move forward with a particular vendor to negotiate a contract to bring back to the Committee. She said with Ride Right there is already a template in place, but they could work with them to add in the suggestions provided to the Committee by citizens. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend that the Administration be directed to move forward with negotiating a contract with Ride Right for public transportation service.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Grayson, Chairman
Health, Sanitation, and Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting date: Monday, April 22, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., which is a change from the regular date.