

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 23, 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, Alice Godsey, Director of Public Utilities, and Matt Choma, Deputy Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting were approved 3-0.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Ms. Godsey stated that for the month of February there were four instances, with none of them being over \$1,000.00. Only the Water Powered Backup Sump Pump failed required a dye test. Ms. Godsey explained that any credits over \$500.00 require a dye test, unless they are outdoors.

NOAC ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Sandretto explained that the one Resolution will authorize the Mayor and Director of Finance to enter into a customer supply agreement for the provision of third-party electric generation for residential and small commercial aggregation participants within the City of Perrysburg. The other Resolution will accept the proposal of Constellation New Energy – Gas Division, LLC to provide natural gas supplies through opt-out aggregation to eligible residential and small businesses in the City of Perrysburg. These would be emergency measures because electric and natural gas will not give a firm price until the agreement is signed, given the volatility of the market right now, Ms. Sandretto explained. Mr. Smith was curious if there was any reason to not move forward with this aggregate. Ms. Sandretto answered that it is a savings and they would reevaluate up until the point that the agreement is signed. There being no objections, the Committee agreed to recommend both Resolutions 3-0 to move forward to City Council.

WATER AND SEWER MISCELLANEOUS FEES

Ms. Godsey explained that last month they presented the spreadsheet with the proposed fees and that they have prepared a comparison of area cities and their fees. Mr. Smith wanted to know if there are any general income tax dollars that are contributed to the Water Department or if it is self-sufficient through the actual fees generated. Ms. Godsey answered that there is \$45,000 of Income Tax provided to the sewer funds and that is currently the only Income Tax contributed to it. Mr. Smith wanted to know what the justification was for a higher charge to an Outside Resident versus a City Resident. Ms. Godsey stated that an Outside Resident does not pay Income Tax, Property Tax, and that the City is holding the debt even though it benefits those

outside the City using our services. Ms. Sandretto added that it encourages annexation into the City.

Mr. Smith believes it is not appropriate to charge more because we are assuming that there will be inflation. Ms. Materni disagrees and thinks that we are not being good stewards of our Citizens' money by not trying to do what we can to help them out. Mr. Smith thinks that we should lead by example by not charging more because the Water Department is funded by the users, not the tax payers. Ms. Sandretto stated that her recommendation is to look at this again next year, which Ms. Godsey agreed with. Mr. Fuller wanted to know if we could word this in a way where we are not in a scenario where we are making money. Ms. Sandretto answered that these are break even numbers and the goal is to not make money on our Citizens, just to not lose money on the product and service provided. Mr. Fuller would like there to be two readings and then a vote. Ms. Sandretto reminded the Committee members that there can be discussion on the first reading and that they do not have to wait until the second reading to have discussion.

BID AWARD FOR WWTP FERROUS CHLORIDE

Ms. Godsey stated that they use ferrous chloride at the Waste Water Treatment Plant primarily for phosphorus reduction, which they have been using since the 1970s or 1980s. Phosphorus is the main cause of algal blooms in Lake Erie. An additional benefit to the use of ferrous is that it reduces the odors emitted from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The City received two bids for Ferrous Chloride and PVS Technologies (Detroit) provided the lowest and best bid. This is up to a three year period, but we are not locked in each year. There being no objections, the Committee agreed 3-0 to move this forward to City Council.

CHANGE ORDER FOR SCADA UPGRADE AT WWTP

This is a resolution to authorize change order number one to the agreement in an amount not to exceed \$19,230.89 for the upgrade of the SCADA system at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Ms. Godsey stated that there was a finding that some maintenance screens would be an additional enhancement that would help maintenance personnel to keep track of run times on all various equipment and to send a flashing alert when time for maintenance was coming up. There was also some out of scope work on some software that occurred, which was an operational necessity. Ms. Godsey stated that they are asking for this to be passed as an emergency because the work has been done and they are obligated to pay this vendor. There being no objections, the Committee agreed 3-0 to move this forward to City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Kabat for the update on the Water Tower and wanted to know what happened with the original stencils. Ms. Kabat is not sure if the City ever had them in our possession, but they have been searching all City buildings for them. Mr. Fuller wanted to know with the oversizing agreement, if it will put the City ahead of things ever. Ms. Godsey stated that yes, the Infrastructure Cost Recovery Program lays out in a grid what the sewers would have to be, and when a developer is laying out a subdivision, they can choose to run the Sewer through the subdivision, rather than along the main roads. Ms. Kabat added that they help us out by

oversizing the pipe and then the City reimburses them. Ms. Materni added that it saves us money in many ways and is a win-win situation to her. Mr. Smith asked if we have ever thought about paying to oversize a sidewalk into a multi-use path in a new subdivision. Ms. Kabat stated that several developers have done this as they build out their developments, such as Canterbury and Coventry Pointe.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fuller, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.