

SERVICE COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 30, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Becky Williams. Committee members present were Rick Rettig, Barry VanHoozen and Becky Williams. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat and Service Director Jon Eckel.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Jackie Venzel, Watermill Lane, asked Mr. Eckel what he considers as valued trees in reference to the Fort Meigs Road ditch cleaning. Mr. Eckel said that they are trying to keep the trees that are on the list of approved street trees such as white oak. Ms. Venzel asked if that means the other trees can be cut down. Mr. Eckel said that they can, and they have to facilitate the ditch cleaning. Ms. Venzel asked about homeowners' trees damaged by the crews that cut down the trees in the ditch. Ms. Kabat said that is an HSPU matter. She added that the Department of Public Utilities will work with the Department of Public Service in the Spring to see what, if anything, can be planted so the ditch can be maintained in the future.

APPOINTMENT TO STREET TREE COMMISSION

Mr. VanHoozen moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a public official. Mr. Rettig seconded. The Committee went into Executive Session at 5:06 p.m. They returned from Executive Session at 5:14 p.m. Mr. VanHoozen moved to appoint Jim Hagen to the Street Tree Commission. Mr. Rettig seconded. Ayes: Rettig, VanHoozen (2). Abstain: Williams (1).

RENEWAL OF YARD WASTE CONTRACT

Mr. Eckel explained that a couple of years ago the yard waste program was changed so Modern Disposal takes full responsibility for it and now the City has little to no involvement. He said that residents have seemed to embrace the program. The fees will not change for 2017 and are based on volume disposal rates. Mr. Eckel said he would recommend approval of the contract for yard waste services with Modern Disposal. Ms. Williams asked if we have any idea how many toters have been purchased. Mr. Eckel and Judy Hagen said that they have no way to know since they are purchased by homeowners at retail stores. Mr. VanHoozen asked if the response has been what they expected, and Mr. Eckel said it has been better than he thought it would be. Ms. Hagen added that Modern Disposal has taken a lot of work from the Department of Public Service because they no longer have to order and deliver yard waste bags and stickers, and the phone calls regarding missed pick-ups go directly to Modern Disposal.

The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the contract renewal with Modern Disposal for yard waste services.

LEAF PICK-UP UPDATE

Mr. Eckel said that leaf pick-up has gone well this year. They are currently finishing their sweep to the west and then will start over on the east side of town. He said that he realizes that it's been a late season for leaves and they planned to assess the status at the end of the week. There was a brief discussion regarding converting the trucks from leaf collection to snow plowing.

FORT MEIGS ROAD DITCH CLEANING PLAN DISCUSSION

Ms. Kabat said that the Fort Meigs Road ditch cleaning discussion falls under the jurisdiction of multiple committees. Some of the items that fall under the Service Committee would be the sidewalk, street trees and fencing. She said that with regards to the sidewalk there is still heavy equipment that will be out there. She said that a fencing quote came in today and the recommended product is a black vinyl coated chain link fence, but no decision has been made. She reiterated that in the Spring they will see what trees from the approved street tree list can be planted based on safety and maintenance of the ditch.

Ms. Venzel asked if any other quotes have been received for fencing. Ms. Kabat said that they have only received one quote from one vendor. Ms. Venzel asked if they would consider a split rail with chicken wire. Mr. Eckel said that he would not recommend it because that's what was there and they had trouble with maintaining it. He said that safety is their first and foremost concern. Rachel Schmitz, 1591 Watermill Lane, said that her letter was accepted by City Council and her letter stated that the fencing should be mutually agreed upon by the homeowners near the ditch. Ms. Kabat said that the letter was accepted by City Council meaning that they took it, not that they necessarily accepted all points of it. Ms. Schmitz said that rubberized chain link fence is not acceptable. Scott Anderson, 1599 Watermill Lane, suggested that one of the property owners be included in the discussions so they can be sure that they approve of the fencing. Ms. Williams said that communication is the important thing. Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Kabat if she thinks this project could have been handled better. Ms. Kabat said that for the last six or seven years all ditch projects have been handled the same except this one was put on social media before it started. She said that notices are sent out on planning and zoning issues because we have legislation requiring that we do it and we send out notices if access to property will be blocked. Ms. Kabat said that moving forward there will be citizen notification but she's not sure what that will ultimately look like.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Williams, Chairperson
Service Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.