

Minutes of Perrysburg Public Utilities Committee

Meeting Held March 27, 2024

CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Kevin Fuller.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members present were Kevin Fuller and Rick Rettig. Committee Member Kerry Wellstein was not present. Also present were Joe Fawcett, City Administrator, and Matt Choma, Director of Public Utilities.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF 2/21/24 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting were approved 2-0.

SEWER CREDITS TABULATION

Mr. Choma stated that they have two credits for a singular residence, 867 Walnut Street, totaling \$535.18. Year to date, the sanitary sewer credits are \$4,424.29.

NEW WATER & SEWER RATES - PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL MAKER, NEWGEN STRATEGIES, RATE CONSULTANT

Michael Maker, Deputy Director of Water Practice for NewGen Strategies, gave a presentation to the Public Utilities Committee regarding the new water and sewer rates. Mr. Maker stated that water and sewer should not subsidize each other, and they should be self-supporting. Their objective is to ensure rates are stable through sound financial management. Mr. Maker stated that they did a three percent increase on January 1, 2024. They are proposing a rate increase of ten percent on July 1, 2024. Mr. Maker is also proposing ten percent increases on January 1, 2025 and January 1, 2026. He stated that you only need a full rate study about every five years.

Mr. Rettig asked for a comprehensive look over the history of working with NewGen. Mr. Choma responded that they will be working with NewGen until the end of 2025. Mr. Fuller asked about the ten percent increase in 2026. Mr. Maker responded that they need some more cushion due to the shortfalls they are catching up with. Mr. Fuller asked about residents on a low or fixed income, considering the upcoming rate increases. Mr. Fawcett shared about Muni-Pal, which is a program in cooperation with the Salvation Army to help local citizens in need of assistance to pay their utility bill. Mr. Choma stated that they can present this to City Council when they bring the legislation for it to them. There will be two readings in May and one in June, so that it can go into

affect on July 1, 2024. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Rettig thanked Mr. Maker.

PUMP STATION EVALUATION - J&H ENGINEERS

Mr. Choma explained that this is for a resolution amending Resolution 107-2022 authorizing a change order to the agreement with Synagro Central, LLC for biosolid management services. It is necessary for the City of Perrysburg to properly dispose of biosolid sludge generated at the wastewater treatment plant throughout the course of the year to maintain the ability to effectively operate the treatment plant. Mr. Choma stated that due to digester maintenance, the City has a need to update the agreement with Synagro Central, LLC to allow for all tipping fees for landfill sludge to be passed through the service provider to the City at direct cost plus a five percent markup. There being no objections, this is being forwarded 2-0 to City Council.

Mr. Choma stated that this is for a resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor and Director of Finance to enter into an agreement with Jones & Henry, Ltd for sanitary pump station assessment services at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00. Mr. Fuller asked how long it will take for the evaluation. Mr. Choma responded that their goal is that it would be complete before the end of the year. Mr. Rettig asked if we will receive a hierarchy of needs or what has a sense of urgency. Mr. Choma responded that this would be a part of their analysis and that his crew is doing a tremendous job with maintenance. There being no objections, this is being forwarded 2-0 to City Council.

NEW DPU POSITIONS - UTILITY SUPERVISORS

Mr. Choma stated that he presented these two new positions to Personnel Committee last night. This would help with succession planning and also give employees the opportunity for upward growth. The Utility Supervisors would be trained under Brian Homer, Field Operations Superintendent. Mr. Rettig clarified that they are adding two additional personnel to the payroll with these positions. Mr. Choma responded that that is correct.

UPDATE ON DFFO - SSES

Mr. Choma stated that this project will be doing a physical survey of our sanitary sewer system and assessing what our needs are. The SSES will be complete in June 2025. It is projected to start this spring. Once it is complete, it will kick off the SSO elimination plan.

OHIO EXCAVATING RATIFICATION OF SERVICE PERFORMED

Mr. Choma explained that this is for a resolution ratifying certain work performed by Ohio Excavating and authorizing a payment of \$26,757.50. The Public Utilities Department had a watermain break on the twenty-four-inch line running down State Route 25. After isolating the leak, utilities personnel determined that the excavation required was beyond the City's internal capabilities. There being no objections, this is being forwarded 2-0 to City Council.

DEPARTMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Choma stated that there is a watermain project on the alleyways between Fifth Street and Sixth Street happening right now. Some residents are put out currently because they cannot access their garages. He noted that they went with a different construction method to help accelerate the construction process. Mr. Fuller asked about the communication component to residents that are affected. Mr. Choma responded that there is always an opportunity to improve and they are trying to figure out the best way to communicate.

Becky Williams, 421 East Sixth Street, stated that she received a door hanger from AT&T and they are doing work at the poles in the alleyways. She made them aware of the watermain project happening in the same alleys. Ms. Williams told AT&T to contact Mr. Choma.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Fuller, Chairperson
Public Utilities Committee

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.