

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 6, 2021

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on April 6, 2021 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Joanne Krejci, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Mike Vos; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Jessica Fenos, Linda Barath; Vince Weimer **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Thomas Kelly, City Engineer Justin Haselton, Wastewater Superintendent Mark Smith **Other:** John Nickell, Dan Langshaw, Jonah Pichette;

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of March 2, 2021 Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant B Proposal

Mr. Smith stated we recommend we place this on hold until we get a reply back from the Ohio EPA. We have resubmitted all of the paperwork and he believes they are still working remotely; it may be a couple of months before we get a reply. We should table it until we hear back from them to which direction we can go. Ms. Krejci stated when we hear something we will add it back under New Business; due to it being a different conversation since the proposal has already been done.

Mr. Marnecheck asked Mr. Smith if there was any deadline as to when the EPA has to get back to us and are we in any violation with them. Mr. Smith stated we are not in violation of our permit; it's in the hands of the person that handles the permits. It's just a matter of them getting together.

2. Water Main Breaks and Cleveland Water Department

Mr. Haselton stated we did hear back from the Water Department on our application for Lytle Road from 2 months ago; it was unsuccessful. We are graded on the fire flow that's available and we have more available than required. The water quality wasn't bad enough, recent pavement reconstruction hurt us, no lead connections, the fact that it is newer than some of the older lines, we are closer to downtown and inner ring suburbs. It did not score well enough to get funding through the Sewer and Watermain Renewal Program, but Mr. Haselton did speak with them and there are a few areas that they think would score better, so when we submit again later in the year, he will speak to the Mayor and maybe highlight those areas. There might be better options than getting funding through the Water Department. Ms. Krejci stated Mr. Haselton's timeline would be August for resubmitting. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated we it probably won't be Lytle Road; it would be other projects. Mayor stated one of the things we learned through this process is some of the ways we can score better; one is to try to tie water projects into road projects, that's one of things that seems to score very high. It's not an approach we have taken but we are going to start monitoring that type of a situation so that we can get a better score or a higher score. We are going to look at other options we may have because for us to resubmit Lytle, it would just be a waste of paperwork. Compared to other projects that have scored, it was significantly down from those. Most of those that did score well had and reconstruction along with replacement; those seem to be the best. We are going to continue to look and get some more ideas as to where and what.

Ms. Barath stated does that include the Bunker Road issue. Mayor stated he spoke to a guy at Cleveland Water about that and we can look at that again, but he didn't seem to think that that was significant enough. We are steadily getting numbers from them as far as where the breaks are and how often. You don't have to take a whole street either, we can section, which in the past we may have done. Hopefully we can start narrowing things down to start getting some of that.

Mr. Weimer stated to Ms. Barath's point, Bunker Road is one thing; Lytle Road is another one too, but do they do anything when they are looking at this to evaluate the fact that when they just repaired the one on Lytle with the most recent huge break that happened. As soon as they repaired the break, the pressure built up from repairing the break which caused 2 more breaks down the line. Then they fixed those 2 and it caused another break in the line. Do they look at the fact that there is obviously something wrong with those water mains to the point that every time they fix it they are causing more breaks down the line or do they just not care?

Mr. Haselton stated they look at the raw data, they just look at the numbers in total. Mr. Weimer stated that is unfortunate.

Mr. Wos stated would it be possible for Council to get how they evaluate; their scientific method. He is just curious of what we need to have? Old Faithful erupting out of the middle of the road before they consider it to be a concern. We have had a lot of issues over on that end of town; Ward 5 and 6 with disrupting a lot of people having their water turned off. Mr. Wos stated it surprises him when we have so many issues; his only guess is some other communities have problems a lot more severe than we have. We all pay a large share of taxes to the Water Department, so that should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Haselton stated it would be possible to get their scoring criteria. Ms. Krejci stated there is no other place, any other funding that would be available for any other kind of water main breaks other than what we would get from the Cleveland Water Department. Mr. Haselton stated this is the most common one; there may be other specific programs we can look into that maybe aren't designed specifically to this, but we can try.

Ms. Krejci stated that she thinks that we should keep this on in case we receive any further information and at that point we can move it off of the agenda. Mr. Wos stated maybe add it later in the year, when it gets cold.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Smith stated regarding the I&I program, we will be starting that back again later this month. We will be going into the Pinestream Subdivision when we start. We have the 90-day letters that will be going out to the "Planets" in the Royalwood area, because last year we put it on hold due to COVID, so we will get the letters out to the residents that failed. Ms. Krejci stated we will be placing this item back onto the agenda for May under New Business.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Krejci seconded by Mr. Wos **to adjourn the April 6, 2021 meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**