

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 5, 2021

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on October 5, 2021 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:24 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of September 7, 2021 Committee minutes. Moved by Ms. Krejci, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Ohio EPA (WW Treatment Plant B conversion)

Mr. Smith reported that he has not heard anything back on the grant process, however, we are still waiting for the design engineer to come up with a quote price; for the design. We did check with the State on time frame, which we may hear something back this month. Ms. Krejci asked if we knew the amount as part of the grant. Mr. Smith indicated that was unknown. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that it would not delay anything. Mr. Smith noted that the project is going to move forward, it is just what type of funding we are going to have to go about in order to get it going forward. Currently, we are waiting on a price on the design, which he was hoping to have something today. By the next Utilities meeting, he would have everything collectively.

Mr. Smith mentioned one thing that was omitted from the agenda, the I & I, in which we were not going to be doing anymore dye testing; however, we do have a couple of septic conversions. One at 5220 Edgerton Road, which was approved and changed from septic to sewer. Secondly, one at 19319 Bennet Road, which was approved and that was a septic conversion. There were four I & I repairs; which were all completed. The I & I program is working because people are starting to repair some of their issues.

Mr. Marnecheck asked if there were any other repairs of I & I expected this year, and if anyone else was working through the process. Mr. Smith indicated yes, and he expected I & I repairs as long as the weather permits. They are staying on top of that, which would help us in long run.

Ms. Barath shared that she has been walking and talking to residents. One of the concerns that comes up is when they are put into a situation where they have to do the repair, there are many people that are not necessarily the best when it comes to doing repairs. She wanted to know if Mr. Smith's office ever provides any direction for people. Mr. Smith explained that the Building Department should have a list of contractors that are approved through the City. Mr. Marnecheck inquired whether they are licensed and bonded. Mr. Smith concurred. Ms. Krejci pointed out that the list is very long; it is a very inclusive list. Mr. Kelly advised that as a matter of policy, the City does not recommend any contractor for any purpose to residents. Each situation needs to do their own research and obtain pricing; make comparisons before they spend money. Mayor Antoskiewicz pointed out that we still recommend someone that is licensed and bonded with the City.

Mr. Vos raised question pertaining to the list. He did not think it was on the Building Department's website; readily available. He wanted to know if that could be something residents could get. Mayor Antoskiewicz commented perhaps they could. Mr. Vos explained that it is hard to get people right now from what he is hearing; contractors because they are so busy. Mr. Smith stated that he has been very lenient since he has been over the program. Last year, no letters were sent out because of the pandemic. There are people that have been in violation for over 15 years. They work with all of the residents because that is their job. He went on to say many people cannot do it right away. Mr. Vos believed that it was the County Board of Health that had sent some letters. Mr. Smith indicated that we do not have any control over that.

Put I & I back on agenda.**2. Street Light on York Road**

Mayor Antoskiewicz and Mr. Jordan met with the First Energy, and the Mayor felt that everything is squared away. There was a total of 45 locations still identified for conversion. The issue that came up, was that originally it was 29 lights that were considered to be not done yet. When First Energy did their review, there was 45. What we discovered was that there was a 16-light difference, which were those they did in Swan Lake; which were never on the City's list. We found out that those were the City's responsibility all these years and they were never on the list. Therefore, currently, we are in the process of getting an agreement with them that will take care of all 45. In short, when they were doing it, they did Swan Lake.; lights that we were never on our list of lights, that we were paying for. We had thought these were private; such as HOA's, and they are not. We are in the process of getting the contract together with First Energy to take care of the remaining 45 lights. We have 4 lights that were identified on Boston Road as eligible for conversion however we are dealing with Ohio Edison. We acquired a contract that we will be doing with them to get those 4 lights done as well. That should take care of everything.

Mr. Dietrich asked for more clarification about the number of 16 lights at Swan Lake. Mayor concurred that was the exact number. Mr. Dietrich asked if we authorized them to do those. Mayor Antoskiewicz agreed that we did. He went on to say, once we found out that they were not HOA's, we told them to convert them over; not thinking they were not part of the original estimate. This is where the difference came in. Mr. Dietrich questioned if this was the primary reason this has not been done. Mayor Antoskiewicz clarified yes, because we found 45, and the 16 was the difference until we sat down and discussed with them; we discovered that was the difference in number. Everyone is now on the same page. We should have that contract signed by the end of the week and they will get it completed. Mr. Dietrich asked if we expect that to be done by the end of the year. That was the Mayor's hope. Mr. Dietrich raised question as to the majority still needing done and the location. Mayor Antoskiewicz concurred that some were on York Road; with a few scattered ones, including Walling's Road.

Mr. Dietrich was glad that we have a solution, however, he wanted to state on record that he believed this project started a couple of years ago, and to come to a solution this late in the process is ridiculous. He expressed that Mr. Jordan should have stayed on this a more strongly; it could have been done a lot sooner. He concluded that hopefully this can be done by the end of the year and residents were not happy.

Ms. Krejci questioned any kind of refund expected. Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that we do have a refund coming for some of the lights that have not been done yet, in which he would have more information in the near future for everyone.

LEAVE ON AGENDA**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Krejci seconded by Mr. Dietrich to adjourn the October 5, 2021, meeting. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.