

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on February 1, 2022 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m.

PRESENT: **Committee Members:** Chair Dawn Carbone-McDonald, Joanne Krejci; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, John Nickell, Mike Vos, Linda Barath; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Tom Kelly, City Engineer Justin Haselton, Wastewater Superintendent Mark Smith; **Other:** Michael McDonald, Vincent Weimer, Jessica Fenos, Tiffany Anzalone.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald moved to excuse Mr. Dietrich from tonight's Utilities meeting. Seconded by Ms. Krejci. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of January 4, 2022 Committee minutes. Moved by Ms. Carbone-McDonald, seconded by Ms. Krejci. Minutes were accepted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Inflow/Infiltration of Storm Water (I & I)

Mr. Smith explained that we would not start the I & I back up until April. However, we did have one septic conversion on State Road, that should be completed within two to three days. We also had one cross connection that was repaired on York and Beta Drive on January 6th.

KEEP ON AGENDA.

2. Ohio EPA (WW Treatment Plant B conversion)

Mr. Smith reported the good news that we were approved for the loan through the OWDA (Ohio Water Development Authority). There will be legislation at the next Council meeting for the Mayor to sign for the loan; which was \$2.7m. We already had \$250,000 from the grant. We had our first kick off meeting on January 27th and everything seems to be moving forward.

KEEP ON AGENDA.

3. Street Light on York Road

Mayor Antoskiewicz did not have an update at this time in Mr. Jordan's absence. Ms. Krejci indicated she had informed Mr. Jordan about a couple of lights on York Road, between Wallings and Albion Road that still were not transitioned. He had conveyed to her that they were going to take a look at those.

Mr. Cinquepalmi spoke to Mr. Habak a few weeks ago, in which he had asked the Service Department to go out and check them all. However, they have not done so, as of yet, due to the snow. This will have to be done at night and should not take long.

KEEP ON AGENDA.

4. Tree trimming – power line-utility lines

Ms. Carbone-McDonald made suggestion to have someone from First Energy come to our next committee meeting. She brought up that there are many trees touching down on wires.

Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that in talking with the company in the past, they will generally come out. If they consider them not to be a danger, they will not come and do them; as they are considered to be up to the property owner in many cases. Ms. Carbone-McDonald expressed her concern was the snow making those heavier now. Mayor Antoskiewicz reiterated that if it is a First Energy cable line, they will come out and trim them.

Chief Chegan pointed out that his department goes out to the wires that are down. This program was started years ago, whereas we tried to work with the cable companies, because we wanted to clean up the poles. We know there are trees on the cable lines, however, it has been difficult because we have had a number of cable companies over the years, and some of those are dead lines. First Energy will come out if it is an electrical line and those are all reported.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald asked if the department should be informed of where they are. Mayor Antoskiewicz concurred; e-mail him with an address if needed. He will turn those over to First Energy. Chief Chegan felt it was probable that there are some that have not been reported. He encouraged everyone to report them.

NEW BUSINESS

1. NOPEC

Ms. Carbone-McDonald mentioned that she has had some resident concerns that they have not been able to opt out of NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council). She wanted to know the benefits, if any, for the City to remain in it. She asked about when the City made an agreement to use NOPEC.

Mr. Kelly clarified it has been 12 years minimally. He felt that most people found it to be a reasonably, good option for them. He noted that Ms. Vozar goes to those meetings and suggested that perhaps she could contact Ms. Carbone-McDonald to discuss it further. Ms. Carbone-McDonald was appreciative.

2. Cleveland Water Projects

Ms. Carbone-McDonald inquired about any projects that are being done in the City and asked about informing the residents of any that would be upcoming.

Mayor Antoskiewicz explained that unless it is a big project, the City calls and they come out and fix it. There are numerous ones like that, whereas there would be no way of knowing ahead of time. He went on to say if there are big projects, then yes. Ms. Carbone-McDonald wanted to know the protocol if a home owner is not home in certain circumstances, and the water department goes to the house. Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that they are just going to fix the problem. Ms. Barath shared that in her experience, they do leave a note on the door. Mr. Nickell added that with some of the utility companies, they can just do what they need to; some of them are federally regulated. He concluded that they do not have to inform you if it is a large project.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Krejci, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald to **adjourn the February 1, 2022, meeting**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**