

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2022

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on April 5, 2022 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

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

Ms. Krejci moved to excuse Mr. Dietrich from voting on the minutes of February 1, 2022. Seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of March 1, 2022 Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Krejci. Minutes were accepted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mr. Smith reported that we anticipate starting dye testing in Villa Grande Drive and Lisa Lane area, at the end of this month most likely. Letters will be sent out next week to inform residents that we will be out in the area. We had one septic conversion on Edgerton Road; which was a septic conversion to sewer.

2. WW Treatment Plant B conversion

Mr. Smith advised that there has been installation of flow meters to the sewers to collect data, which should be done within a week or so. We have a meeting tomorrow with Brown and Caldwell on the progress of where we are with the project.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald asked about the time frame. Mr. Smith felt that we would have more detailed information after tomorrow's meeting. Hopefully we will be able to go out to bid before the first of the year; by mid next year with construction.

3. York-Albion Street Light

Ms. Krejci pointed out that they had changed the timing and everything was doing better to her knowledge. Mayor Antoskiewicz did not think there have been any other calls of concern.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

4. Street Lights on York Road (replacing)

Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that the last report he had received entailed seven locations being determined for eligibility for LED conversion. There were three locations in which we had to provide more information. There are some that they were not going to do yet because of the construction on Sprague Road.

Ms. Krejci brought up that someone was still conveying to her the ones on York Road are not replaced; she recalled that Mr. Jordan was perhaps going to double check. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that the company is still looking into it.

Mr. Dietrich expressed his frustration once more; this is partly his ward. He has had complaints and feels that he cannot get answers, whereas we were promised we would get an answer by Christmas. Mayor Antoskiewicz clarified that answers have, in fact, been given as to updates from him and also from CEI. We have been giving answers all along; perhaps not ones that we want. Mr. Dietrich asked whether the City could get involved at some point and have these converted, and then charge it back to CEI. Mayor Antoskiewicz pointed out that we cannot do that. He has learned that when working with utilities, all we can do is keep communicating. We will keep working with them and continue to get it finished; there are very few left. The other ones that are left, nine or so, are not going to change until the construction is over; on Sprague. The Mayor went on to say that we have been working with the representative and are down to the three. He will look into them and call the company himself, to see if those are ours. In the records, they had found lights that they indicated we had not been charged for; which were not on the list. This may perhaps be a couple more lights that fell through the cracks. Mr. Dietrich asked if we can contract someone out, as we do streets and things, if it gets to that. Mayor Antoskiewicz clarified that we likely would not do that. Furthermore, he would be probably liable for touching their polls. Mr. Dietrich was looking at alternative solutions. Mayor Antoskiewicz added that we will stay on this and we will get them completed.

5. York Road Special Assessments – sanitary sewers

Mr. Haselton advised he is working on the proposal; we will have that to the Mayor tomorrow. Once approved, the first step will be going out to do the survey.

Ms. Barath received a call about a month ago about a cell tower behind Drug Mart. She wanted to know what is the process for this as to whether the City was notified in any way. Mayor Antoskiewicz explained that the company sent us a memo last year, near June or so, and conveyed that these were coming. He thought we forwarded all of the explanation on that; the smart grid poles. Ms. Barath felt that residents are under the assumption that there is an option; there is no option. Mr. Nickell noted that folks may think it is a cell tower. Ms. Krejci pointed out that it is also not the City's, but the Illuminating company. Mayor Antoskiewicz concurred it is First Energy's. He had asked about the location on one of them. Their engineers have their plan and put them where they want to put them.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald inquired about how many they would be putting up in the City. Mayor Antoskiewicz clarified that they did not say. He noted one potentially on Wallings Road in Broadview Heights, some going into Parma; they are going to be all over. The Ohio Smart Grid modernization project allows us to integrate modern technology with our distribution system to help reduce the impact of an outage, or tree falling into the wires, etc.; Once fully implemented, the system will locate and isolate the outage to a smaller group of customers; affecting much less in number.

Mr. Marnecheck recalled that we went through this when we were talking about the 5G, and how we really do not have control over the utilities; the state took that from us. Mr. Kelly concurred. He went on to say that public utilities are obviously regulated industries, and again, we are at the mercy of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. He concluded that they do things when they want to within the public.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Purchase of (3) three vehicles**
 - **Storm Water – F450 dump truck**
 - **Storm Water – Box Truck**
 - **Wastewater – 5-ton tandem dump truck**

Ms. Carbone McDonald asked about the dump truck that was being requested. She wanted to know if it was possible to borrow one from the Service Department. Mr. Smith indicated that this is part of the new business, in which we are trying to purchase three vehicles; including two for Storm Water, and one for the Wastewater Plant itself. The reason that one is a box truck is, the one we have currently is over 17 years old and is falling part; we are needing a replacement. We are asking for 450 dump truck to help with moving material. The 5-ton is for the Wastewater Plant in case we

need a backup for our big truck. In short, Service is in the process of getting their own vehicle; we do not feel that it would be right to have to borrow.

Mr. Nickell noted that during the summer, the Storm Water team is always out. Mr. Smith concurred; they move a lot of material. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that would be a difficult way to do business. He pointed out that ordering trucks are taking a long time to receive them. Ms. Krejci agreed it would be a while in obtaining those, if approved tonight. Ms. Carbone-McDonald inquired whether it is getting any better with ordering and timeline. Mr. Smith clarified that it was not; we have been waiting over a year for one order.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald moved to take the Purchase of three vehicles out of committee. Seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Krejci, seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the April 5, 2022, meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.**