

# **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**APRIL 20, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reams at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Reams, Debbie Groat, Dan Fogt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Valerie Klingman, John Mitchell, Ryan Horns (Journal Tribune)

**AGENDA:**

## 1) Summer Sewer Credit

Mr. Mitchell handed out documentation of some research done by his office. Codes from other cities were included in the hand-out. The majority of the communities have some type of deduct irrigation type meter. Some have summer credits, similar to what Marysville has, and some have nothing. Estimated cost for a deduct meter in a residential setting could range anywhere from \$200-\$500. The cost of the meter would be \$100 plus plumber costs. Commercial meters would cost anywhere from \$750 - \$1500. Summer sewer credit is calculated based on 130% of average winter months.

Mr. Reams commented that if people install deduct meters, that means they would have a lower bill, but the cost to the City of Marysville would not change. City is still treating the same amount of water. Anyone without a deduct meter would pay a little more. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that not everyone would have a deduct meter, but everyone is now getting a summer sewer credit. Right now everyone is getting potentially 30% off sewer.

Mr. Mitchell doesn't advocate either way, but the most practical way of doing it is to go with the metering system. City can then track what's used and what's not used and know that it's water that actually was or was not put back into the sewer system. City is guesstimating with the current program.

Ms. Groat said we have to decide if we want the person who waters the lawn in the summer not to have to pay sewage that never got used. Mr. Fogt says they should.

Mr. Mitchell commented that West Carrollton keeps the summer credit and also allows for deduct meters.

Mr. Fogt said requests had been made to extend the summer sewer credit from April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Mitchell said that's another issue.

Mr. Reams suggested having people who are watering sod or filling a swimming pool, to call in and apply for a credit instead of giving everyone a credit. The ordinance would have to be changed.

Ms. Groat noted the way the Code is written, the Utility Claims Board of Appeals has no ability to grant an appeal. Mr. Mitchell said three claims were heard today, two relating to watering in April and October.

Mr. Reams suggested leaving the summer credit as is, but outside of those months if you have a special watering situation, you can apply for that credit. If someone forgets to apply for that credit or it's denied, they could then go to the Appeals Board and the Board would have something to fall back on.

Mr. Mitchell asked about commercial. The current program doesn't cover commercial. Mr. Reams said any money that the City loses from the sewer revenue from commercial will be made up on the residential side. Mr. Mitchell said that might be true if you leave the current system the way it is and add secondary meters for commercial. If you change the current system and everyone goes to secondary meters, you could have surplus because not everyone is going to get a secondary meter.

Ms. Groat suggested requiring commercial to have a deduct meter. That could apply to new builds and existing businesses.

Mr. Fogt feels offering the summer credit is important to our residents.

Mr. Reams can see it both ways. City doesn't want people to let their grass die, but City also has a very limited supply of ground water, and if we create incentives for people to use more of that, eventually we'll be drilling more wells and depleting more ground water.

Mr. Mitchell doesn't feel we have a problem with supplying water. We currently sell 2M gallons per day and production capacity is 4.33. In the summer, we max out at 3.6/3.7. We have twice what we produce up in the air in storage, plus what's

in the miles of water lines. The unfortunate thing is we have no interconnect with another community.

Ms. Groat is okay with some form of credit.

Mr. Reams suggested allowing residents to apply for credit outside of the May-September timeframe. The Appeals Board would have the leeway to deal with the circumstances. Authority would be given to the Utility Department to handle the additional sewer credit applications.

Mr. Reams said if we're going to allow deduct meters for commercial, we should allow them for residential. On the other hand, if we allow deduct meters for residential, we should abolish the summer credit. If you have both systems, those who go with the meter, would not get the summer credit. Those without a meter would get the summer credit.

Regarding the summer credit timeframe, Committee feels there needs to be a way to address watering requests outside the May-September timeframe. Those requests would be handled by the Utility Department. If for some reason those requests are denied, residents can then appeal to the Utility Claims Board of Appeal. Proof should have to be shown for the need for additional water, such as the invoice for sod or landscaping. Need to draft legislation to authorize the Utility Department to accept requests for credit for special watering situations outside the May-September timeframe. Include the percentage rate for calculating the credit. Committee is in agreement with staying with the current 130%. Ms. Groat said if in long term planning City wants to eventually go with deduct meters and phase out the percent credits, she suggested gradually increasing the percentage over the next ten years until it is phased out, then the deduct meter can take over from then on. Mr. Fogt is opposed to that proposal. He doesn't want to force anyone to buy a deduct meter.

Bulk water rates were discussed. Marysville's rates are much higher than area communities. Mr. Fogt feels the City is losing revenue by not being competitive with other communities. Bulk water haulers are going outside of Marysville to buy water. Mr. Mitchell will check into this issue.

Deduct meters for residential. Does City want to pursue at this time? Would it be a hassle to offer the residents one option or the other? Mr. Mitchell will check with the Utility Department to see how complex this would be and report back to the Committee.

## 2) Traffic Corridor Studies

Ms. Klingman handed out a summary of the studies.

North Marysville. Purpose was to study the safety congestion and geometric deficiencies that exist on the Rt. 31/Rt. 33/Rt. 4 corridors and to look at capacity needs at 31 & 4 and how it would impact the interchange as new developments come in.

Recommendations were provided on what to do with the ramps and lane configurations as things start to development in the area, as well as the overall existing safety issues in the area.

Working with MS. As part of their scope for these studies, they were tasked to do an interchange modification study. City has been talking to ODOT, and instead of doing an interchange modification study, we want them to do a safety study for the City, which will put the city in line with ODOT to pursue safety funds through ODOT, to get the interchange updated. MS will take what they've already done and create a safety study, particularly the 33/31 N ramp with all the problems. As things begin to develop in the area, City needs to make sure along the interchange, along Rt. 31 and 4, that we're acquiring proper City rights-of-way as we go forward.

Mr. Reams noted there is no sign for South 31 when coming towards Marysville on Rt. 33 and you want to come into Marysville, south on Rt. 31 or South on Rt. 4, where do you exit. When coming on 33, you see an exit for N31 and N Rt. 4 and people drive right past it thinking there is an exit on up for South 31. There is no sign for 31 South.

Mr. Fogt asked if ODOT would allow Mill Road to be widened at Rt. 31. Ms. Klingman feels they would have to negotiate with ODOT to get this done.

Delaware Avenue Corridor Study – Looked at Delaware Avenue from Five Points, all the way out to Watkins Road. Looked at the safety and congestion issues, as well as the signalized intersections and analysis to see if City needs to do anything with signals. There are a lot of recommendations, some are big dollar items, some are not. Will have to look at the recommendations and prioritize and look at funding to see what City can do first to come up with a plan. Some of the

recommendations include adding lanes, changing signals and realignment of Fifth Street to connect to Dunham.

Milford Avenue and Maple. The purpose of this study was to look at how to improve operations at that intersection. They made short and long term recommendations. Based on the fact the OPWC funding has been identified for this project, Ms. Klingman doesn't see the point of the short term recommendation. By the time the project would be done, you'd have to tear stuff back out. The long term recommendation is Alternate 4. This is something that Administration will have to look at and see if they agree with that. There are two alternatives that City needs to consider. Alternate 4 is more of a traditional 4-legged intersection and brings Maple up and over to Stocksdale and brings those two opposite and makes the thru be Milford, which is not how it operates today. Other alternative would leave Maple to Milford as it is today as the thru movement and bring Stocksdale in and make it a T intersection. One option has more of a traffic-calming affect and the other a lets-move-the-traffic-through affect. Need to look at what the City wants to do. Both options are excellent and are improvements for the intersection and would be significantly better than what's out there today.

Mr. Fogt said you also have to consider what you're going to do between Maple and the hospital. Ms. Klingman said that is not covered in the study. Mr. Fogt suggested readjusting Collins where it hits Ninth. He believes Collins needs to go straight to the hospital. Mr. Reams believes that's what was originally planned.

Downtown One-Way Pair Study - This study looked at Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Streets between Grove and Cherry to determine if going to a one-way system would benefit the City, and the answer is no. They feel it's a detriment to the downtown businesses to do that. They have a no-build alternative which is to leave it as it is with minor improvements. None of those are near-term fixes. One recommendation is to add additional turn lanes, which would take away parking. The no-build alternative recommendations aren't any that would need to be taken care of in the short-term.

US36/SR4 & Milford Avenue Study – Purpose of this study was to look at the intersection of US36/SR4, Payne Road and Milford Avenue. Provided both short and long term recommendations. City feels the need to pursue a formal signal warrant study at this intersection when funding is available. From there, proceed with long-term recommendations. Depending on what comes out of the study, may want to check with the school to see if they would be able to participate in

part of the funding to get this project done. This project would be in proximity of the school.

Ms. Groat asked about sidewalks in this area. Ms. Klingman said sidewalks are included in the long-term recommendations.

Traffic Signal Study – This was a comprehensive study for the entire city to evaluate the existing traffic signals. They provided recommendations for either maintenance or operational changes. As soon as the draft report was received, Mr. Mitchell and his people went out and looked at things flagged as safety issues. Some of the issues were taken care of before the final report was received. There are 24 signals in town. City needs to correlate what has been done, with what's left in the report to make sure we don't miss something that has significant impact.

Mr. Reams questioned the traffic signal timing at Fifth and Damascus. He feels the traffic backs up to the west coming into Marysville because it is timed with the other signals on down Fifth. It's not letting enough cars through for the amount of cars waiting. Ms. Klingman feels the timing gives too much time to Damascus/Raymond. Mr. Mitchell will check it out. He cautioned that whatever adjustment is made to that signal is going to affect everything down to 4<sup>th</sup> and Grove, because they are all inter-connected.

### 3) Sidewalk Discussion

This is part of the plan for this year, trying to put together a more comprehensive approach to installation and maintenance, connectivity of sidewalks. Ms. Klingman said not much has been done because the consultant for the Thoroughfare Plan is supposed to be making recommendations. Hope to have their recommendations in about a month or so. Received \$9,300 grant to finish Collins up to Green Pastures. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Tracey are still identifying areas in need and as a city, we have to hold ourselves to our development standards and specifications, and we haven't been doing that on some things. One area he noted was the park area at Aldersgate. There is not a sidewalk around that park. Will look at putting in a sidewalk along Damascus down to Emmaus. There is not a sidewalk on either side of that area. Another area is on Maple N. by the middle school and Quail Hollow. Another part of the grant funding is for 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Will be doing the sidewalk to connect that, but will first install the water line, then widen the section at the far west end up to Grove, then resurface the entire thing. That's the plan for this year.

#### 4) Project Updates

- Sanitary -- Crosses Road pump station, which sends the flow over to the water reclamation facility. Both are 98% complete. Started pumping the southerly flow coming from the county and the Scott pump station over to the new plant on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Everything seems to be working fine. Hoping by the end of the month to switch some of the flow from the community over there. There is a generator issue with the Crosses Road pump station, then restoration on both projects. Hope to have everything switched over by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Water projects -- Reservoir is about 99% complete. Just needs some pavement restoration and some reseeding. Pump station has been pumping the last couple weeks, testing systems, controls. Final piece is to get the controls back to the water plant so they can do it all automatically from there. They've been doing it manually.

- Paving projects -- Seventh and Ninth Street projects scheduled this year. Will be bidding projects out in May.

- Traffic Study – Discussed previously.

- Storm Water Study - Study is complete. Funding through OPWC has been received for the three culverts on Industrial Parkway. Will put out RFQ sometime in May.

Mr. Fogt asked for an update on stimulus money. Ms. Klingman said City did not receive any money for the transportation projects that were submitted. List has not been put out yet for the EPA projects. Feels City may have a good chance at a couple of shovel-ready projects. List should be released in May. Mr. Fogt asked about the passing of the Federal budget with 9,000 earmarks in it, but there is no indication from Senators or Representatives that a certain project was funded. Ms. Klingman said she worked with Brown, Voinovich and Kilroy on appropriation requests for the water treatment plant, the pilot study for the water treatment plant and the interchange. Ms. Klingman feels it's too early to know results of the appropriation requests. Mr. Reams said the little projects were not funded through earmarks. Mr. Fogt stated he was very disappointed, but not surprised.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.