

# **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**JULY 20, 2009**

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

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

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

## **AGENDA:**

### **1) Summer Sewer Credit**

Mr. Reams summarized previous discussions on this issue. Issues with deduct meters were discussed, current method of dealing with the credit in terms of exceeding winter usage by a certain percentage, then discussed people watering sod in November or filling a swimming pool in March, which would not fit within the summer credit timeframe, and there is no method of appealing that. Simplest thing we could do is put in place some language to deal with those situations when individuals have to use excessive water outside the normal summer credit timeframe.

Draft language was presented. Mr. Mitchell said this language allows the City to keep the current system in place and allows a one-time process to allow for the credit outside of the window of the May thru September exemption period for the summer sewer credit to get a deduction for the sewer portion of the bill. Examples of these exemptions would be for watering lawn, sod, filling a swimming pool or potentially having a leak outside the house that wouldn't go through the sewer system. Individual must have documentation to be turned in. There is an application process to get the application started which goes to the Utility Claims Board of Appeals. That Board will decide whether or not to allow it.

Mr. Fogt questioned the one time sewer credit. Mr. Mitchell said the application form says one time every three years. Mr. Fogt noted filling a swimming pool would be done every year. Mr. Reams said he would agree to an annual sewer credit.

Ms. Groat said the Utility Claims Board of Appeals would decide if there is excessive use of the summer credit.

It was decided to remove the term “one-time.” This would allow City to handle the sewer credit through the procedure. The remainder of the language remains as proposed. Legislation will be drafted for the August 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Public Service Committee agreed to sponsor this legislation.

## **2) Sidewalk Discussion**

Ms. Klingman reported that the final draft of the Thoroughfare Study has been received. Sidewalks and connectivity were added as requested. Ms. Klingman is in the process of reviewing it prior to either recommending it or not recommending it be adopted before forwarding it on to the Mayor. Once that is done, will begin working on the other plan that was started three or four months ago to look at the missing links. The sidewalks being done by funds from Safe Routes to School Program are the sidewalks along Collins Avenue. Will then finish the sidewalks all the way out to Meg Michel’s house. The other section is on 7<sup>th</sup> St. at the west end between Mulberry and Grove St. With budget constraints, some other projects will not be done that were planned.

Mr. Fogt said the budget should be watched very closely. Police and Fire are priorities to him; everything else comes in after that. He did agree that Collins looks great, as well as the other improvements. Mr. Fogt said he hopes the City goes with bike trails rather than sidewalks in the future wherever possible. Mr. Mitchell said the Halcyon development will have a bike trail out front.

Mr. Reams said as a committee he would like to tackle the issue for when a development is built, what you do about sidewalks in terms of timeframe. He was referring to empty lots. Ms. Klingman said this was discussed but doesn’t think it was included in the code while changing the code. It was discussed that sidewalks had to go in within a two-year timeframe from breaking ground. That would be for that phase of the development.

Mr. Mitchell said there are a couple of the City park parking lots not paved, which is a requirement for our businesses. City is trying to fulfill that requirement.

## **3) Project Updates**

Sanitary Projects – Water Reclamation Facility and pump station have been on line since March. Transitioning went really well. Flow is down a little due to dry conditions and economy. Currently in the process of decommissioning the existing facility. Ms. Groat asked what eventually will happen to that land? Mr. Mitchell said it's up to Council. The collection facility and office building will remain there. Ms. Groat asked if green space could be created there to make it more attractive. Mr. Mitchell said the land behind the wood shop, Franke's, is used for mulch/compost area. May use some of the drying beds for the mulch/compost since there are concrete pads there. Short term, that's what they're looking to do. Would like to get into some composting processing, get some equipment to do some top grinding/mixing, take soil and mix and turn it into top soil. Mr. Fogt said he wouldn't do it in the City; he'd do it at the new plant. City received stimulus money for a maintenance facility at the new plant. Still discussing if that can be done.

In summary, Ms. Groat said both the sanitary plant and water plant will eventually provide, inside the City limits, land that will need to be addressed as green space. Are those areas safe to develop? Mr. Mitchell can't speak as to the old wastewater site because of the old landfill. That is monitored and there are constraints there. He assumes there can be green space there. Mr. Fogt noted there is a fence there and it is locked. Mr. Mitchell said as the structures and facilities are removed, the fence could be moved in to allow for more green space. Ms. Groat asked if there are any environmental grants to help clean up this area. Mr. Mitchell will do some research. Mr. Fogt fears the way the area is chopped up with the landfill and the remaining buildings, the green space area would be in the back. There would be truck traffic in the area and you may not want to use that as a park.

Have been working on the Southwest Trunk Sewer for three or four weeks. They are up to the railroad from Industrial Parkway. Will be doing the boring underneath the railroad the first part of August. Mr. Fogt asked if Scottslawn Road would be done this year. Ms. Klingman said the roadway will not be done. The roadway is not part of the Job Ready Site project. It's OPWC funding for the roadway. Still working out easement details. Looking at breaking ground for the water line in October.

Mr. Mitchell noted the lift station at the VFW is being eliminated and they are running the gravity back to the big trunk interceptor. Same thing at the Bowling Alley. That is done. The three culverts on Industrial Parkway are next to be replaced.

Water Projects -- Paving is complete at the reservoir. Need to look at the trail up top to make sure it's completed the way it should be. Signs are posted. People are permitted to walk on the trail. No bicycles, fishing, boating or sledding allowed. Distance is 2.1 miles around the top. Gates are up at the bottom. There will be a bike rack placed at the bottom.

Landscaping and lawn restoration is being done at the dam and pump station. Paving is complete and striping is yet to be done in the parking lot.

Mr. Reams said the pump station sets in an area that could be flooded. How is the City going to deal with that? Mr. Mitchell said he assumes when it was built, they made sure that the flood line wasn't up into the building. Ms. Klingman will look at the plans.

Mr. Fogt asked if the City is pumping into the reservoir now. Mr. Mitchell said just at times to test things. The flow is too low.

Mr. Reams asked if a fence would be put around the pump station. Mr. Mitchell said no. There is fencing around the intake area and that's all the fencing there will be. Landscaping will be done around the building.

Water project on 7<sup>th</sup> Street should be completed in the next three to four weeks. Hope to pave that street, along with a portion of 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Paving Projects -- The two paving projects are noted above, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Reams said some of the trees where the landscaping was put in at 33 & 36 are looking pretty sad. Mr. Mitchell said the City bought some water bags and have been watering them every week. There is a one-year maintenance on the trees and would have to be replaced by the company. The water has helped. Ms. Richardson believes those trees are Sunset maples. She has a couple in her back yard. They have a fungus. The man who came out to look at her trees said it's a bad time for that particular type of maple. She suggested keeping an eye on them if they are still under the one-year maintenance.

Traffic Study -- Traffic studies are done. Still finalizing Thoroughfare Plan. As an extension to that, working on the interchange 33/4/31. The company who is finalizing the thoroughfare study is going to complete the safety study, so City can hopefully seek safety funding from ODOT. The original contract with the company was to do an interchange modification study and instead of that, scope

will be modified to do a safety study. ODOT said that would be needed in order to move this forward to seek funds for this project. The IMS needs to be done eventually, but safety study needs to be done first. City has applied for Federal funding.

Regarding the Twigg property, Mr. Fogt asked if that area is developed in small pieces, instead of one big parcel, will road improvements be included in the development? Ms. Klingman said anyone who goes in there would have to complete a traffic impact study, and associated traffic improvements would have to be done regardless of what goes in there. Traffic improvements would be coordinated with ODOT.

Ms. Klingman is in the process of going through all the studies to pull recommendations as we move forward over the next several years and prioritize the projects.

Storm Water Study -- City has entered into an agreement with ME Companies to design the Industrial Parkway culverts. They have to have those designed by the end of the year. OPWC funding will be used for those. Will go out to bid once design is complete. All three will be bid as a unit. This will benefit coordination of traffic control. All three will not be shut down at one time.

Town Run is still on the radar. Trying to obtain two funding grants for this and looking at a third. Need that to make it happen. Also looking at doing an OPWC grant for that.

Staff met with the firm selected to design the stimulus projects for the detention basins and the stormwater lines/improvements. Pomeroy Associates is the firm. Will come back with the scope and price. Mr. Mitchell noted they were the most creative firm, knowing constraints out there with the airport and the property and FAA issues and knowing some of the history that they picked up on by reading reports and seeing some alternative routes to take for piping for potential detention basin location, minimize impacts for utilities.

Mr. Fogt noted the green space by the hospital could have been a small detention basin. No one uses it for anything now. You could dig that out, grass it over and put a couple of park benches along the sidewalk area, it wouldn't look any worse than it does today and it would serve a purpose. Ms. Klingman doesn't believe that that's within the limits of the scope that's being looked at for the three projects at

this time. Staff has talked internally about using that parcel for detention. The company will look at everything that affects the watershed area.

Currently rebuilding catch basins. Have done some storm sewer laterals to residents on Terrace Place, so that they have direct connections right into the storm sewers, eliminating some of the curb outlets, because the sump pumps that are connected to those cause ice build-up in the winter and algae growth in the summer. Same thing was done on Collins and Hickory.

Ms. Klingman noted besides the three detention basins as stimulus projects, there are three sanitary stimulus projects that are moving forward. Currently in easement phase for North Main. Looking at current design for the collection facility to see if we can get the dollars down that are available thru the stimulus. Working on easement acquisition and final design for missing link. Missing link is on Industrial Parkway from 42 to Taylor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.