



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Council Chambers

4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Public Works/ Public Utilities/ Cable/ Schools Committee was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Committee Chair Crawford.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Members Present: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

Department Heads Present: Public Services - Superintendant John Melnik, Water Pollution Control - Superintendant Craig Pierce and Assistant Superintendant Mark Verzella

Sunshine Law Certification

A quorum was established as defined by Ashtabula City Council Rules of Order. The meeting met the requirements of the Ohio Sunshine Laws Open Meetings Act.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

City Manager's Report

City Manager Timonere introduced Superintendent of Public Services, John Melnik, to the committee members. He oversees the Sanitation and Public Works Departments. The Public Works Department includes Traffic, Motor Maintenance, and Park & Recreation staff. Most staff members work out of the West 24th Street Transfer Station/Public Works office building.

Mr. Melnik reported his department's current focus is on the winter weather issues. Staff also work on repairs to manholes, catch basins, and roads. Five new employees were recently hired in the Sanitation department.

- Plow trucks were repaired and are back in service. The alleyways tend to be a problem for the large plow trucks to clear snow.
- Potholes are filled with a "hot mix" from April to November. From December through March, a blend designed for the winter months is used.
- The City owns the streetlight poles on Main Avenue and the wiring, poles, and heads of the streetlights on Collins Boulevard. This year's Park Avenue project, the City owns the poles, heads, and wiring. Any other streetlights in the City are owned by the Illuminating Company. Outages can be reported through a link on the City website or by calling City.

- One of the two International trucks used by the department is being repaired by the dealership. It is likely the second truck has the same issue.
- The 2022 Paving Program review is in process. Union Avenue, West 13th Street, and East 23rd Street are being considered though the cost analysis is over \$1 million. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) wants to pave Route 84 from Austinburg Road at Bunker Hill Road to the railroad tracks, but it won't include some of the City's worst spots. The City would have to contribute \$180,000 to \$200,000 of paving levy funds to this project.
- The road at Walnut Beach can not be paved. Grindings are put down and it does get graded to smooth the surface prior to summer.
- Quotes for new Public Works trucks are forthcoming. If ordered now, the trucks would be ready for next season.
- Six houses on Ohio Avenue Extension will be tied into the City's sewer system. The expense will be funded by an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant and the water treatment plant.

City Manager Timonere introduced Superintendent of Water Pollution Control (WPC), Craig Pierce. He is a certified Class IV Wastewater Operator, a rare find in the State of Ohio. Mark Verzella, the Assistant Superintendent of WPC, is Director of Pretreatment and a Class III Wastewater Operator.

Mr. Pierce explained the Waste Water Treatment Plant is an activated sludge plant with a capacity of 12 million gallons per day, with a maximum peak flow of 24 million gallons. In 2021, the plant averaged 4.78 million gallons of daily flow. Wastewater is collected from roughly 9000 service connections, 5000 of those are within City limits and 4000 are in Ashtabula, Plymouth, and Saybrook townships. The plant utilizes its own in-house lab and manages the industrial pretreatment program. Twelve industries participate in regular monitoring and sampling as part of the program. Because industrial metals cannot be treated using the City's purely biological process, the industrial pretreatment program allows for the removal of metals at the source. Through the sludge dewatering and disposal program, WPC managed 487 tons of dry sludge in 2021. All of the WPC programs follow the guidelines of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to protect the citizens of Ashtabula and the waters of Lake Erie. WPC is responsible for six lift stations, an automated bar rake, and a million gallon equalization (EQ) basin for storage during high flows.

- Sensors report when a possibility of sanitary sewer overflow occurs. Stormwater is supposed to be separated from sewer lines, but the City has spots where the systems are still connected. The rate study of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and sanitary sewer system is underway by GPD, the City's engineering firm, which will provide data to help prioritize the areas. The study will also determine to what extent a rate increase is needed. The City receives some grant funding for projects but otherwise relies on the enterprise fund.
- Stormwater from downspouts should not enter the sanitary sewers per City Codified Ordinances.
- Issues with stormwater runoff should be directed to the Public Works department.

Mr. Verzella supplied the following report:

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- **Plant**

- Bar rake installation. Purchased from Kusters Waters for \$231,015.00. Installation to be completed by AP O'Horo Company for \$204,800.00. Installation includes mud valves, new water service, grating, handrail, electrical, and compactor. Funds are already appropriated in 504 account for installation and associated work.
- Upgrading tunnel lights to LED wall packs, replacing deteriorated wiring and conduit
- Painting interior buildings and labeling pipes. Work in the Raw / Primary Building is underway.
- Rebuild flame arrestor, rebuild pressure regulator, install drip traps on methane lines, and look at replacement of waste gas burner igniter. Parts were received in early Jan of 2022.
- Replace sodium aluminate lines from chemical containment area to primary tank effluent channels.
- Replace blower building drain lines from return sludge pump volutes and wasting pumps to sump. Install new submersible duplex pump station, panel box, and discharge piping. Drain line 90% complete, PO requested for pump station components to be replaced.
- Discussing options to send out the centrifuge bowl for repair and balancing.
- Replace potable water line from digester building to administration building.
- Plant administration building roof to be replaced. Contract awarded in 2021 to Building Technicians for \$140,800.00. Work to commence in 2022.
- Digester building roof damaged in recent storm. Working with Travelers insurance on pricing and repair of damaged portion. We are looking to utilize available funds in 504 to cover remaining portion of building roof and replace all of it. Repair includes HVAC units, and heat exchanger stacks.

- **Collection System – Pump Stations**

- EQ Station – working to replace basin 1 level sensor and replace EQ pump # 1.
- Bridge and Morton Pump Station – Pump #4 out for repair, backup pump installed while #4 is out for repair. Damaged wiring required replacement of wiring from pump head.
- Tannery Hill – Panel Box Replacement at Pump Station.
- Walnut Beach – Packing replacement needed on east pump. Re-installed west pump and replaced discharge piping and valves.
- 826 Morton – Need to replace roller pins on pin rack for climber screen. Repairs needed to lubrication system. Exhaust fan for building and overhead door recently replaced in late 2021.

- **Misc. –**

- Purchase new lateral push camera with recording capabilities and locator.
- Continuing to send COVID samples twice per week to Kent State University for testing of RNA fragments.
- GPD Study is currently in process.

- It is difficult to staff the WPC because Class I operators and above are scarce. Mr. Pierce and Mr. Verzella visit the local schools to encourage students to look into the wastewater treatment industry as a profession.

New Business

Introducing new Committee members

Clerk Senskey supplied an introductory letter for the Committee members to approve before she distributes them to the local schools.

Next Meeting

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m. by Committee Chair Crawford.

Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey