



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM

4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Public Works/ Public Utilities/ Cable/ Schools Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Crawford.

Roll Call

Members Present: **Chair:** Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, **Vice Chair:** Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, **Member:** Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Absent: None.

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council McKenzie Borgan

Ashtabula Department Heads Present: WWTP Assistant Superintendant: Mark Verzella

Visitors: None.

Sunshine Law Certification

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

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Chair Crawford welcomed Mark Verzella.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Timonere reports that the two trucks from Nelson's Sand and Gravel have been picked up. One is for Water Pollution and the other is for Public Works and Sanitation. Logos are being taken off, touch-up painting is occurring, and a seal is being placed on the back of Water Pollution's truck. Mack notified that two of the three plow trucks have been built and are at the carrier for delivery. They still have to come to Ashtabula for some prep and then get sent to Mentor for plow and dump equipment to be placed on the truck. No update has been received on the third truck, but usually, they are built together, so it shouldn't be far behind. The aerial truck should be delivered by the end of February or the beginning of March. The RAM from Montrose was picked up. The RAM 3500 will be picked up on Thursday in Youngstown.

Water Pollution Control Report

Assistant Superintendent Mark Verzella provided the following report:

- Return Sludge Pump #4 rebuilt and re-installed.
- Bridge and Morton pump station - pump #3 failed during electrical outage. Pump sent out for repairs.
- Centrifuge feed pump rebuilt by staff in early January. Obtaining pricing for replacement.

- Crane truck images and article to be in February edition of Water Environment and Technology magazine.
- OEPA NPDES permit inspection occurred on 1/17/23. This was an extensive 7 hour inspection looking at all areas of the facility including solids handling, laboratory, records retention, report submittals, violations, non-compliances, staffing, tanks, equipment, and overall facility operation. Notable inspection items based on conversation with the OEPA representative:
 - Copper limit to be dropped.
 - Cadmium limit to be dropped.
 - Low level mercury- Current limit is 7.4 ng/l on effluent. New limit will be lower, between 6.5 and 7.0 ng/l
- Laboratory- looking to purchase new IDEXX E-Coli testing unit to streamline and produce more accurate E.Coli results during disinfection season.
- Outfall- Bypass pumps being used routinely as flows require.
- Industrial Pretreatment - Lake City Plating Plant II in significant noncompliance. Possible administrative order will be sent if corrective action isn't taken to improve water quality being discharged from their facility.
- Headworks bar rake project is still ongoing. Bar rake is installed and in operation currently. Punch list items being addressed by Contractor.
- Received shipment of bulbs and crystals for UV disinfection system.
- Grit building roof is in need of replacement. Working with GPD to get specs and RFP out for bid. Funds were appropriated in 504.150.5550 for this work.
- Purchased dump truck from Nelson's.
- Purchased service truck from Columbiana Dodge.
- Multiple staff have been attending seminars for required CEU's. We anticipate offering on site trainings for confined space entry later this year.

Vice Chair Holman asked Mr. Verzella how long Geneva has been using the IDEXX system. Mr. Verzella stated they purchased the system last year. Ms. Holman asked if Mr. Verzella is gathering all the learning he can in regard to this system from Geneva. Mr. Verzella said yes. He stated another option is for them to hire a lab to complete this testing for them, but that would be costly as they run one test per day and then also factor in the consumables. The IDEXX Company is coming in this month to do a demonstration. Mr. Verzella stated they have a good relationship with Geneva and Conneaut and there is a lot of communication within the industry. Member Mills asked what the cost of this IDEXX system is. Mr. Verzella said last year's quoted price was about \$8,700, which included some trays and dishes to perform analysis. They will be receiving a new quote this year after the demonstration and will also be given the seasonal cost for the entire disinfection period. He stated the dishes they currently use are through Niagara Scientific and the prices are going up. Five of these dishes have to be used each time an analysis is run. They are also time sensitive.

Chair Crawford asked Mr. Verzella if he sees the prices for the crystals and UV bulbs staying the same or going down. Mr. Verzella stated he believes the prices will stay the same if they do not become more expensive. Mr. Crawford also asked where we get the parameters for industrial pretreatment levels. Mr. Verzella stated they hire CT Consultants to perform technical justification. The technical justification is what determines those limits. This is based on plant flow and loading calculations. There is also an ordinance that makes the first violation \$300, the second violation within a six-month period \$500, and the third and ongoing \$750 until administrative orders or enforcement actions have been taken. They do work with other facilities to try and get them to a point where they can meet their limits.

Vice Chair Holman asked if Mr. Verzella has a sense of any patterns or trends with companies being compliant. Mr. Verzella stated that Lake City Plating, and that industry in general, is hard to meet effluent limits with metals. All other industries are usually in compliance. City Manager Timonere stated that the copper and mercury limits tend to be non-compliant most within the plant. However, even if they are non-compliant within the plant, it does not make them non-compliant for what they send out to the lake. If industries send high concentrations of total suspended solids, BOD, COD, and phosphorus, that the plant has to remove, they can charge a surcharge to remove it. Physical violations occur if industries send large quantities of certain substances that the plant cannot physically remove, which would cause the plant to violate its OEPA permit.

Member Mills asked where the mercury comes from other than the dental offices. Mr. Verzella stated that they do not come from businesses other than dental offices. He stated, for example, at Cleveland Dental Institute you may see a level of 12,560 nanograms, and the plant's limit is 7.4 nanograms for mercury before it goes to the lake. City Manager Timonere stated another issue with mercury is that it can leave legacy residue in the pipes.

Vice Chair Holman asked if Mr. Verzella will share the inspection results once they are received and he said he would.

Public Works Report

City Manager Timonere's report on the Public Works Department:

The Public Works Department has been on split shifts since January 2nd. The first shift is from 7 am-3 pm and the night shift is from 11 pm-7 am. This allows for the first shift to be held over four hours and allows for the night shift to be brought in four hours earlier when a snow event occurs. This would provide 24/7 coverage when needed and keeps shifts at 12 hours long. There are currently four employees working the night shift and everyone else is on the day shift. They are out patching all the wards when snow is not present. They are also cleaning up equipment and trouble spots with the sewer jet when needed. Snow and ice removal when conditions permit.

The sanitation department is still looking to hire two people. The department is doing well. They have found a school that does CDL training that would come on location to do a portion of the training. It is in the contract that the city would pay for the CDL training as long as they sign an agreement that they will work for the city for three years and if it is below that, they will have to reimburse the city for the costs. Once employees sign this agreement, the city can hire individuals without CDLs and allow them to go through the same training process.

Member Mills asked City Manager Timonere what the cost is for the CDL training. Mr. Timonere stated it would depend. There is instructional time, one company will come to us and complete the 8-hour class or they can take it online. The fee for this is about \$200. Then, there are three elements of driving: maneuverability, pre-trip inspection, and on-the-road driving. The driving portion of the training will depend on how long it takes each individual to pick up the driving elements. The estimated cost is between \$2,500-\$3,500 per person to get them trained and to have their CDL.

New Business

City Manager Timonere provided a list of streets to be paved and estimated costs. About \$800,000 of street levy funds and \$400,000 of ARPA funds will be used to fund this project. With the design, miscellaneous items, construction inspection, and administration costs for this project, the total will be about \$1.4 million. The Rt. 20 and Rt 84 paving projects will begin this spring and they are not included on this list as they were paid for last year. Rt. 11 will be completed next year and the city will not have any costs for that project. The Collins Blvd. project, which funding was received for, does not have a timeframe for when it will be completed. Mr. Timonere also mentioned having to complete a full-depth concrete replacement in Bonniewood. This will cost \$909,000. Doing a two-

inch asphalt overlay would cost \$261,000 but, this is not the best way to do it as there will still be movement which would cause more frequent maintenance. He continues working with AMHA and is looking for grant funding for housing estates like Bonniewood where they may be able to supplement the repair work. Station Ave. from Rt. 20 to West 32nd St. will cost about \$204,000. Mr. Timonere stated he would like to do this road next year as the Saint John's and City Schools' bus garage construction should be completed by then.

Member Mills asked about the portion of East 47th closest to State Rd. and Mr. Timonere stated they are going to ask that that portion be included when they pave SR 20 and SR 84 this spring, but the city will have to pay for it. He explained that is a good example of what happens when you pave over brick, which is what would happen if they paved over the concrete in Bonniewood. It starts to peel away.

Vice Chair Holman asked where she could go to find previous year's paving projects that list which streets were done. She is wondering if Ward 3 has 44% of this year's paving project as a result of what has not been done in the past. Mr. Timonere stated he could provide her with this list. However, back in the day when \$5 million was borrowed for paving Ward 3 and Ward 5 saw the bulk of this as well, but he will get her the list.

Member Mills stated that when she was at a training session with other municipalities and they stated they would inform residents they would be paving their road and the cost would be split up between all residents on the road and added to their property taxes. Mr. Timonere stated the city used to do this until the late 1980s and early 1990s. The cost would be put on residents' taxes with no choice.

Mr. Timonere also stated that once the list is initially created they will start working on cleaning the sewers and working with AQUA and Dominion to see if they have any upcoming projects, so we do not pave something they are just going to cut next year. He stated AQUA typically goes out and checks valves to make sure they are working so the roads do not have to be cut. This is all done before they put the project out to bid.

Vice Chair Holman asked if the companies whose trucks go in and out of Benefit Ave. and West 47th St. frequently contribute anything to the roads, as a lot of the damage comes from their trucks. Mr. Timonere stated a portion of their property and income tax goes into the city's permanent improvement fund and street levy fund. They do not give anything directly for street paving.

Mr. Timonere stated he would continue finishing up the list and, once it is finalized, get it to GPD sooner rather than later to get the books together. He would like to get this out soon as this is the time everyone is planning their year and he is hoping to get a good price for these projects. He believes this year will be competitive with pricing.

Member Mills asked when the hotel in the harbor would be opening and Mr. Timonere said July of this year. Mrs. Mills asked if we were ready for the hotel's waste/water capacity and Mr. Timonere said yes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 27th, at 5:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Interim Dean Ayers of Ashtabula Kent State University.

Adjournment

Chair Calvin Crawford adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.