



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 8:30 AM

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 8:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Mills.

Roll Call

Members Present: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero

Absent: President John Roskovics

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

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 Laws Open Meetings Act.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

John Melnick Public Services Superintendent, and Craig Pierce, Water Pollution Control Superintendent

City Manager's Report

City Manager James Timonere stated that the Assistant Superintendent of the Water Pollution Control passed his Class four examination for his license certification. City Manager James Timonere said there are 223 Class Four licensed operators in the state of Ohio. He also mentioned that Superintendent Craig Pierce is also Class Four certified and that he would be retiring soon. Mr. Timonere said that he was in the process of gathering the paving list. As of now, the cost is approximately 2 million. Mr. Timonere also reported the Lift Bridge project had begun. The Route 531/84 paving project will go out for bid around March 1, 2024. Mr. Timonere also mentioned the city will begin posting park jobs. The job announcements usually occur around April.

Water Pollution Control Report

Superintendent Craig Pierce / Assistant Superintendent Mark Verzella

Superintendent Craig Pierce provided a Water Pollution Control update. **Water Pollution Control Update**

- Plant

1. UV Disinfection system offline. Season ended 11/1/23. Preparation for 2024's disinfection season will begin in March. The UV system goes online from May 1-November 1 yearly.
2. Hosted Spear's Manufacturing training at the wastewater plant on January 18th, 2024. Multiple municipalities attended. Training is approved for 3 CEU hours through the Ohio EPA for both water and wastewater. Training covered all aspects of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) piping and fittings. There was no cost for the training.
3. WPC recently posted a job description for a Swing Shift Operator. Posting came down on 2/21/24.
4. Outfall relocation efforts. 12" diesel pumps are still in place to augment plant flow when flows exceed 6 MGD. Amendola Engineering submitted the outfall relocation proposal on January 12th, 2024 to the OEPA, for review and comment.
5. Currently operating on an expired NPDES permit. City staff submitted permit renewal documentation prior to required deadline (fourth quarter 2022). OEPA has not issued a new permit to date. Outfall relocation may delay new permit issuance.
6. Effluent sample pump failure occurred recently. Pump was replaced with a backup and the failure of the pump was covered under warranty.
7. East and west heat exchangers were recently serviced by Rabe. This included cleaning all the tubes and replacement of the ignitor. We are working to procure more ignitors. The heat exchangers were originally installed in 1956 and are still in operation to date.
8. Commodities bid went out for sodium aluminate and polymer for 2024. USALCO and Polydyne have been awarded the contracts.
9. Endress Hauser (data logging) equipment to be replaced at the plant. New RSG 35's have been purchased from Endress Hauser. We are waiting for one additional component to be delivered and then we can schedule installation. The cost is approximately \$6000

- **Collection System**

1. 826 Morton – Bar rake pin rack (rollers and bushings) all replaced on 12/5 and 12/6. Bar rake carriage assembly was reinstalled on 12/7. Further inspection of the unit identified deficiencies in the wiring harness for the bar rake. Wiring harness has been replaced and unit is back in service.
2. Tivision Pump Station – Received backup submersible pump from Great Lakes Pump Company.
3. GIS mapping – Auditor's office recently uploaded all the GIS data points supplied by GPD group.
4. Jet/Vac Combo truck – WPC recently expended \$17,157.24 to make repairs to the jet. Public Works and WPC have been working together to perform preventative maintenance and investigate complaints. The combo truck and sewer camera have been working daily. The Jet combo truck is aging and approximate cost to replace is about \$500,000
5. West 14th SSO elimination and sewer rehabilitation project is underway.

- **Misc. –**

1. Continuing to send COVID samples twice per week. Samples analyzed at ODH Public Health Lab. From September of 2020 to September of 2023 we sent 272 COVID samples sent out for analysis. Testing has evolved to Influenza A, Influenza B, RSV, and SARSCov-2.
2. GPD Study is still ongoing. This includes the short/long term capital improvement plan, sewer rate study, and SSO elimination (NFA).

Public Works Report

Superintendent John Melnik

According to Superintendent John Melnik, their department has been on snow and ice shifts since January 2024. Their department has patched holes in various roads, repaired man-holes, and cut down trees. The department also gets rid of tree stumps as opposed to the city using a contractor for that service. The department cleans up after each storm. The road sweeper cleans each ward on rotating day and night shifts. The department hosted an auction for obsolete vehicles. According to Superintendent Melnik the auction went well, and all vehicles were sold. Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked how many current employees are in the Public Works department. Superintendent John Melnik responded sixteen. Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked what the physical requirements are to work in the sanitation department. Superintendent John Melnik responded that there is a physical test required for employment. Superintendent John Melnik mentioned that the city has an ordinance that trash must be bagged in a portable, suitable receptacle.

Unfinished Business

Past Meeting Topics

b. Committee Purpose

The Public Works Committee's purpose is to work with the City Manager to address concerns: streets, sewers, sanitation, water pollution, street lighting and recycling. Address legislation needs pertinent to department operations, residential electric, water, gas, and cable. Meet with utility cable providers to discuss local government and residents are facing with their services, fees, etc Schools keep lines of communication open with the School Board and Superintendent, in order to work together, support the mission statement, support school activities, announce school events.

Old Business

New Business

Introduction of new committee members

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Committee Chair, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Co-Chair, Member Council President John Roskovics

Next Meeting

March 26, 2024 at 8:30 am

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 937a.m. by Committee Chair Jodi Mills.