

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 6, 2006

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on February 6, 2006, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Chair Vincent Gentile, Denise Bobulsky, Robin Zaccardelli; Don Willey, Lisa Uffman-Kirsch, Deputy City Engineer Don Ramm, Wastewater Superintendent Charles Johnson, Sun Star Reporter Joanne Dumound.

Moved by Mrs. Bobulsky, seconded by Mr. Gentile to approve the minutes from January 5, 2006. 2 yeas/0 nays (Excused Zaccardelli). Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Gas wells on city property

Mr. Gentile requested draft legislation incorporating needs of North Royalton from Mr. O'Donnell and has not received this yet. It was asked that Mr. O'Donnell do this since he has the most experience with gas well regulation and he will be the chief negotiator for the city. He has been given the ideas that Council wanted to include with the Highland Heights legislation example.

Another company has expressed interest in submitting a proposal. Mr. Gentile said a request was made to Mr. O'Donnell for a prequalification form requesting information from companies wanting to propose digging wells indicating their success rates, accidents, bond rating, do they broker or manage the well, and such.

It was asked why we would request draft legislation if we are still in need of deciding what we want in the regulations. It was recommended to research other communities. There was discussion regarding who should write legislation Council or the Law Director. The November 21, 2005, memo from Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch indicated that this is what the Law Director was recommending as a starting basis for legislation.

After legislation is decided then what might be included in a lease agreement could be determined. It was thought that key points be included in the lease agreement that would not be permitted in our codes. It was brought up that the lease agreement cannot include anything contrary to law.

2. Beckenham Road sewer work status

No action.

3. Wind power

Green Energy Ohio is announcing the Ohio Anemometer Loan Program (ALP). The purpose is to promote the development of wind power in Ohio. Applicants can borrow equipment necessary to conduct a wind study. There is an application process that will be discussed with the Mayor. More information will be provided to the committee next month.

4. Ridge Road sewer update

Easements and license agreements are being updated and letters have been sent to residents. Once easements are acquired and EPA permits are updated the project can be bid.

5. Mechanical feasibility of sanitary sewers in the area of 10763 York Road

No action.

6. Wiltshire Road sewer odor status

Law Director is handling.

7. Kurtz Brothers contract status

Law Director is handling.

8. 1961 Master Sewer Plan

This is removed from the agenda.

9. Wastewater Department update

Mr. Johnson discussed the SCADA project, FEMA Wastewater project, flow meter data gathering, general information, budget needs, and work performed by the Department. Ordinances are being reviewed by the Law Department. Rates and expenses were discussed. Oil and grease management was mentioned. Some I&I repairs may be storm water related.

10. NOPEC gas contract status

No action.

11. Storm Water Utility discussion

Discussion began regarding other communities who have established a storm water utility. There is a lot required to establish this utility. It could take from 14 months to two years to establish. A storm water master plan, a study, and fee schedule would be needed. It would be a dedicated fund for storm water and for what it would be used would need to be defined. It was mentioned that a regional storm water treatment system for Cuyahoga County is being considered with NOACA being the coordinator. The use of and need for this utility was discussed. There are consultants that have helped other communities set up a storm water utility, however due to the budget situation a consultant would not be hired.

12. Storm and sanitary manhole responsibility

The question was posed regarding a utility easement and the utility going bad causing damage to the property of the resident. It was said that residents have been told that it was their responsibility for storm or sanitary manholes in their driveway aprons where these are sinking. It was said that if the aprons are cracking and sinking and the piping is in tact and not leaking, their property is sinking and not the manhole. Ordinances indicate what the responsibility of the city is. The city does not fix things on private property. Mr. Johnson explained what is repaired by his department and said that his department will camera inspect to make determination of damage and if city repair is needed.

There was discussion regarding a water main on Dan Drive. The history of this situation was given by Mr. Johnson. Our Law Department was consulted by Mr. Johnson and the city was advised the repair would not be the responsibility of the city.

13. Proposed code amendments regarding “accessible” sanitary sewers, (05-181, 05-182, and 05-183)

The County Engineer was requested to comment and these were discussed. Discussion included intent, existing homes and new construction, Board of Health determination and jurisdiction, anticipated ORC revisions, and city jurisdiction. Mr. Ramm will review this further with the City Engineer and provide a recommendation.

14. Sanitary sewer connection (tap-in) request City of Parma and City of Broadview Heights

Mr. Johnson reviewed this in his report.

15. Electric power outages

Information is being collected by Council members. The information request form that appears on the Web site of Moreland Hills was discussed. There was discussion regarding adding something to our Web site that would direct email to whomever would take power outage information for our city. It was thought that the Mayor’s Office is the liaison between the city and CEI. Mr. Gentile will discuss this with Mrs. Haller.

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Belt filter press**

Mr. Johnson requested approval to advertise for bids for a belt filter press. He explained that they will get one, not two as was previously discussed. It will be exchanged for the machine that is in bad condition.

Mr. Gentile moved to authorize the Mayor and Wastewater Superintendent to advertise for bids for the purchase of belt filter equipment replacement, seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

Ms. Zaccardelli moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 3 yeas/0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.