

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 7, 2008

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on February 7, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:47 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee: Chair Gary Petrusky, Don Willey, Dan Kasaris; Council: Vince Gentile, John Nickell; Larry Antoskiewicz Administration: Mayor Bob Stefanik, Assistant Prosecutor Donna Vozar, City Engineer Ken Tyrpak, Economic Development Director Thomas Jordan, Wastewater Manager Thomas Kuehn; Other Attendees: Nick Cinquepalmi, Joanne DuMound.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Willey, seconded by Mr. Kasaris **to approve January 3, 2008, minutes.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Gas wells on city property

Mr. Gentile said that due to a conflict of interest, the previous Mayor was unable to negotiate for gas wells on city property, but since that conflict is no longer an issue, he asked Mayor Stefanik if he planned to do this. Mrs. Vozar said that she will see to it that this is pursued. She will review all the necessary data and put something together for the committee. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that he is meeting with a gentleman from Soil and Water tomorrow and he is bringing him a copy of some of the other local ordinances on this topic. He said he will provide Mrs. Vozar with copies of these documents. The committee reviewed various ordinances that other cities have adopted. Mrs. Vozar said that we don't have the authority to pass any law that violates state law so we will need to make sure that we adopt something that we can all be comfortable with.

2. Ridge Road sewer update

The assessment portion of this project has been completed and Mr. Gentile said we are now waiting for all of the homes to tie in; only 2 of the 27 homes have tied in to date. The Board of Health will probably get involved shortly.

3. Wiltshire Road sewer odor status

Mayor Stefanik said that the city will be meeting with Broadview Hts. This matter is set for trial on March 3, but we are still trying to make some progress to correct the situation. We will know more by the next meeting.

4. Kurtz Brothers contract status

Mr. Stefanik said he met with Mayor Kurtz from Independence who owns Kurtz Bros., and they will be meeting again in March or April about the contract. They understand that the contract has some shortcomings and that it's time to take another look at it.

5. Wastewater Superintendent report

Mr. Kuehn asked to start the process for the purchase of a new lugger truck to haul biosolids. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if this was being purchased through the state co-op program, and if so, since their deadline is February 29,

would a letter of intent be needed. Mr. Kuehn said that he did not know, but can find out. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if the letter of intent would bind us to a purchase. Mrs. Vozar said that she did not know but would look at the wording of the letter to see what it contains and what action will be needed to get these letters authorized.

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

Mr. Kuehn said that he understood that Mr. O'Donnell was looking into this. He said that one thing that they requested was a change in manhole locations. Mrs. Vozar said that she would research and have an update at the next meeting.

7. Amended Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code

Mr. Gentile said that he sent an email to Mr. Novikis at the Board of Health and has not yet received a response. He will try to schedule a meeting with him to get his final thoughts on the proposed language. Mr. Gentile gave brief overview of the legislation for those new attendees.

8. RTA Service

Community Development Director Thomas Jordon said that he has been in contact with the RTA General Manager and they admit that there has been a curtailing of service on the 20A line due to cuts being made as a result of rising fuel costs and operating. Ironically, that same rise in fuel cost is causing more people to use public transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Landscaping of Utility Boxes

Discussion was held regarding these types of boxes and the fact that they are becoming increasingly unsightly. Mr. Petrusky and Mr. Kasaris both stated that these are an issue in their wards and asked if AT&T is required to do landscaping. Mr. Jordon said he will get together with Kevin Lynch from AT&T and see if they can't come up with some minimum standards. Mr. Gentile said that there is also a problem with the various utilities pulling their vehicles onto the right-of-way and causing damage. He said that other communities require the installation of a concrete pull-off pad. Mr. Jordon said that we can try to get them installed in the more commercial areas of the city so that they are more compatible with the landscape than they are in residential areas.

2. York Road Sewers

Mr. Gentile said that this is a project that has been discussed for about 2 years and is the simple extension of two lines. The 208 Water Quality Plan shows this area being sewerred. The project is right at the peak of the A and B Plants on York Road. Part of the project would be served by extending the line from A plant and part would be accomplished by extending the line from B Plant. The project consists of approximately 1500 feet. The Engineering Department had determined that all the homes could be treated via gravity; there was no need for a pump. Mr. Willey said that he thought there might have been a question about the gravity on the west side. Mr. Gentile said that he recalls that this was resolved by bringing the one line up. Mr. Gentile said that the former engineer wanted to wait until the completion of the Ridge Road project in order to have a more accurate estimate for the cost of the project. Mayor Stefanik suggested that we first meet with the residents that will be involved in this project and let them know what is happening, get them involved and let them know what the price might be. This is what we did with Ridge Road and it worked very well. Mr. Tyrpak said that he would have an engineering update for the committee next month.

3. Sewer problems in Gregory Dr. area

Mr. Nickell asked about the sanitary sewers on Gregory. Mr. Kuehn said that all of the sewers in that area are receiving the water from the top of the hill and are full to capacity during rain events. The I&I issue would probably be the direction to go, however that is a huge undertaking. Mr. Tyrpak suggested we perform smoke or dye testing if it has not already been done in order to find out where the water is coming from. He said it sounds like more than just cross connections due to the volume of water.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Willey, seconded by Mr. Kasaris to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.