

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 6, 2008

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on March 6, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee: Chair Gary Petrusky, Dan Kasaris; Council: Vince Gentile, John Nickell; Larry Antoskiewicz Administration: City Engineer Ken Tyrpak, Service Director Kris Kamps, Wastewater Manager Thomas Kuehn, Wastewater Supervisor Scott Shantery; Other Attendees: Heather Grisez, Colin Johnson from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **approve the minutes of February 7, 2008.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. (Absent Willey). **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Gas wells on city property (Law Director is in negotiations)

The Law Department is still working on this. More information at next meeting.

2. Ridge Road sewer update

No action.

3. Wiltshire Road sewer odor status

No action.

4. Kurtz Brothers contract status

Waiting for response from Law Director - No action.

5. Wastewater Superintendent report

Mr. Kuehn said that the lugger truck they want to buy is not available through Ohio Cooperative Purchasing so he is asking for permission to go out to bid for this vehicle. Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **authorize the Mayor and Wastewater Supt. to advertise for bids for a lugger truck estimated at a cost of \$160,000.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. (Absent Willey). **Motion carried.**

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

No action.

7. Amended Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code

Discussion was held regarding the requirement in our codes which states anyone within 200 feet of a sewer must tie into said sewer. Mr. Gentile suggested that the language be worded such that it states you are required to tie into a sewer if the City Engineer and the Board of Health determined that the house was serviceable by simple means of gravity.

Heather Grisez from the Board of Health said that this is more of what they are looking for because the 200 foot requirement is causing a lot of problems. It would be easier for them to enforce however if the word "gravity" was not used and to simply have the City Engineer determine if a home is "accessible". By stating that gravity makes it accessible, you are excluding residents who would require a pump in order to tie in. Mr. Gentile said that if they require a pump, we would not force them to tie in; they could choose to replace their systems. But if they can be serviced by gravity, that is when we would force them to tie in.

Mr. Kasaris asked how the City Engineer would determine what is accessible. He said there needs to be some type of standard so it is applied equally. City Engineer Ken Tyrpak said that ability to be serviced by gravity determines access to the sewer; if they can get in by gravity there is no reason that they shouldn't tie in.

Mr. Gentile suggested that "accessible" be determined as having a sewer available via your own property and as an improvement to your property; if you need to access the sewer via an easement through someone else's property, then it would not be considered "accessible".

Mr. Petrusky suggested using the word "capable" vs. "accessible" when determining the ability to tie into a sewer.

Mr. Gentile asked the Board of Health representatives if they consider a home accessible to a sewer if there is a sewer in front of the home and there are no physical obstructions, i.e. creek or pond that would prohibit the property owner to tie in and that should gravity not be a determining factor. Ms. Grisez said yes and topography should be considered as well.

Discussion was held on how the current 200 feet requirement is determined and measured.

Mr. Tyrpak suggested that the language state that the City Engineer will make the decision on the basis of topography and physical features. These are just general terms but they will serve as a list of things that you can take into consideration when making a decision.

Mr. Gentile recapped the language as "*access based on the physical features of the property and/or the topography for connection as determined by the City Engineer in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.*"

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to place this language in Section 1040.01(1). Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. (Absent: Willey). **Motion carried.**

- Various changes to Chapter 1040 were discussed as follows:

1040.07(b): corrected 60 days to 90 days.

1040.15(h): Mr. Kasaris felt that the language contained in 1040.15(h) did not apply to sewers. It states "Each person who makes openings or taps into or who makes connections with or constructs sewers, or who installs septic tanks or *drives upon or over public streets* (emphasis added) or property shall keep in repair and good order the whole of the work executed by him or her....". He said this did not make any sense. Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **remove this language**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. (Absent: Willey). **Motion carried.**

Discussion on how this language protects the public property was held. Mr. Kasaris said that the way it reads, it applies to the driving public. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked what good it does to take out this language. He felt we were more protected if we leave it in. He said that this language falls under a section of the code that is specific to sewers. He said Mr. Kasaris is taking this sentence out of context. You need to look at what it applies to – SECTION 1040.15 BUILDING SEWERS, CONNECTIONS, APPLICATIONS. Mr. Kasaris said that it is not written properly and as written would apply to him just driving down the street. Mr. Antoskiewicz felt that this was being over analyzed.

1040.11 and 1040.13: Mr. Kasaris asked if 1040.11 and 1040.13 covered the same thing. After review, moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Petrusky **to remove the last sentence of 1040.11 “All household sewage treatment system components shall be removed and all tanks properly pumped and abandoned at the time of sanitary sewer connection”**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. (Absent: Willey). **Motion carried.**

8. Landscaping of Utility Boxes

No action

9. York Road Sewers

Mr. Gentile said that the Mayor wants to meet with the residents once we have a cost estimate.

10. Sewer problems in Gregory Dr. area

Mr. Kuehn reported that we started with the recent good weather and did Lynn and Gregory. There is significant infiltration from the manholes. We have some repair kits that we can start to work with. Mr. Shantery said that I&I testing they do now is much more extensive than what was done in the 1990's and actually simulates an actual rainfall. Dye testing is scheduled to start in May.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Infiltration of storm water

See 10 above.

2. Street lights

The Mayor's Office has contacted CEI about putting a light between Oakridge Drive and State Road. CEI has also been contacted for a cost estimate to put poles and lights where East End Drive crosses Vista Drive.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **adjourn the meeting**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. (Absent: Willey). **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.