

Utilities Committee Minutes
April 14, 2010

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on April 14, 2010, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee: Chair Don Willey, Vice Chair John Nickell, Dan Kasaris; Council: Vince Gentile; Administration: City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Wastewater Superintendent Tim Tigue, Other: Nick Cinquepalmi, Don Harris.

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Nickell to **excuse Mr. Willey**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** (Mr. Willey arrived at 7:24 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Willey to **approve the Special Utilities Committee minutes of February 16, 2010 and the Utilities Committee minutes of March 3, 2010**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** (Minutes were approved at the end of the meeting and Mr. Willey was in attendance at that time.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Pending Gas Wells

Mr. Gentile said he spoke to Mr. Cutter today who said he is working on a couple more wells in the city. Mr. Cutter said he would be getting all of the information to Ms. Vozar soon. Mr. Gentile said he told Mr. Cutter to be sure he has the correct paperwork prior to going to the Law Department.

Mr. Gentile said he pointed out to Mr. Cutter that the Utilities Committee is meeting this evening and they will not be meeting again until next month. He said due to deadlines we may want to schedule a special meeting to make a recommendation to Council.

2. Ridge Road sewer update

No update.

3. Wiltshire Road sewer odor status

Mr. Tigue pointed out that there have not been any odor complaints.

Mr. Tigue distributed two charts to committee members and explained what each chart meant. He said the first chart logs the monitor sensor right after the transition from the force main to the gravity. He said the scale goes from 0-25 which identifies the hydrogen sulfide readings. He said the numbers are trending lower and Broadview Heights is doing a great job with the chemical they are using. He said the second chart also shows hydrogen sulfide readings but said the scale only goes from 0-5. Mr. Tigue said this sensor is located at 5100 Wiltshire where the sewer flows downward and due to the aeration, reduces the hydrogen sulfide levels.

Mr. Kasaris asked if we do not have any odor events for the remainder of the year will that put this issue to bed. Mr. Tigue said we would have to discuss that with the Law Department.

Mr. Gentile suggested adopting a resolution over the next few months commending Broadview Heights on their work and mentioning the maintenance program and how important it is to keep it up. He said this will put them on notice that we are watching to make sure they are maintaining the system. Mr. Tigue suggested waiting a few more months to do this.

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

Mr. Schmitzer said his understanding in talking with Ms. Vozar is that the City of Parma did pass legislation on this but unfortunately it was on the wrong version of the agreement. Mr. Schmitzer said the City of North Royalton is working with them to get the new language that they want incorporated into the legislation.

5. Inflow/Infiltration of storm water

Mr. Tigue said dye testing began on March 29th on Albion Road. He distributed a chart that shows the monthly average flow of the B Plant. Mr. Tigue said the monthly average of the B Plant is trending downward. He said we still need many more years of data to prove this out, but said the trend is improving. He said we still have two more years of dye testing so we are only halfway through this process. Mr. Tigue said he would like it noted that this is all happening because the residents are making the necessary repairs and said this is much appreciated by the city.

(Mr. Willey arrived at 7:24 p.m.)

6. Home Sewage Treatment Systems

Mr. Schmitzer said the sewer system has been approved by the Board of Health. Mr. Kasaris asked if the contractor has been paid. Mr. Schmitzer said this is still an issue. He said he did get the paperwork submitted to the EPA's Water Solution Control Loan Fund and they said they would process payment but we have not yet received it. He said as soon as those funds hit our account we will in turn write a check to the contractor. He said the contractor will not move forward on the other house until he receives payment.

Mr. Schmitzer said he is currently working with the second resident and said he will make sure that the resident has the funds available to pay the contractor prior to the work starting.

Mr. Gentile said we need to get this contractor paid. Mr. Kasaris suggested pulling the money from the jail fund. Mr. Gentile said if we do this type of work again the homeowner will need to put their portion of the money in a third party escrow and once it is signed off by the resident that the work was done correctly the money will be released. Mr. Nickell asked if we want to move this issue to the Finance Committee for discussion. Mr. Schmitzer said he will give Council an update prior to the Finance Committee meeting if applicable. Mr. Kasaris asked Mr. Schmitzer if the total amount needed to pay the contractor is \$21,000. Mr. Schmitzer said yes, it is approximately \$21,000 (\$13,000 from the first home and approximately \$8,000 for the second home). Mr. Gentile said the next time we do this type of project we will have to create an account and fund it so the we have a line item to pull the draw from then when we are reimbursed we can put that money back into the line item.

This will be referred to the Finance Committee.

7. Chapter 1030 Use of right of way for utility service providers

Mr. Gentile said that Mr. Kelly emailed Council a letter he sent to Columbia Gas (letter attached). He said the letter basically points out how disappointed the city is that Columbia Gas did not respond to the exploration of minerals and supporting that endeavor for public and private property in North Royalton. He said based on Columbia's lack of response he believes there is some sort of precedent because the Planning Commission has approved two gas lines; one a high pressure TPL two inch line and the other a low pressure PVC line to be installed in the right of way's service property. He said it is going to be very difficult to tell any entity that meets the same type of credentials that Dominion meets that they cannot install in the right of way. Mr. Gentile said this letter is a basis and feels that as Council we should do a resolution with an attachment stating that this will be allowed, it will go through the Planning Commission and they are going to follow standard industry practices to allow this to happen. He said this will give the Planning Commission direction, but it will also let future Planning Commissions know that this is acceptable as long as it is installed per standard.

Mr. Kasaris asked if there are any areas in the city where lines can be extended. Mr. Gentile said the two companies he spoke with told him that in order for them to come into the city they will have to bring the infrastructure along with them. Mr. Kasaris said when he spoke to Ohio Valley they said they were coming in from the south. Mr. Gentile said there is a company located in Hinckley and Ohio Valley and Cutter Oil are looking at a joint venture to bring another gas line in from the south that would service our industrial areas. He said the line will probably be brought down Wallings Road into this area to support exploration in different parts of the city. Mr. Gentile said Ohio Valley has leases north of the Turnpike

and Cutter Oil has leases south of the Turnpike. He said it would behoove both companies to join forces and split the cost to bring the line up to service both sides of the Turnpike.

Mr. Willey asked where Columbia fits into the scenario. Mr. Gentile said Columbia services areas all the way down Ridge Road. He said if Columbia Gas wants to open up and service mineral exploration that is their business but he does not feel we should take the position that we are not going to support another gas company coming in to the city and make well drillers and our residents as well as municipal property wait 12-18 months after drilling before they find out whether or not Columbia Gas will take their gas so they can turn the well on and start seeing revenue. He said the Planning Commission does not set policies and they do not write codes, but what they do is guide the applicant through the application process. Mr. Willey said his criticism with the Planning Commission has always been that they do not have documentation for this. He said he feels we need to document this type of situation so we can establish guidelines. Mr. Gentile said he and Mr. Kasaris feel if we do not establish the guidelines in writing someone will come in and establish them for us. He said he believes Council can work on a document that has good guidance and can be quickly modified simply by stating that it is going to follow the most current ASTM specifications for materials and installation and industry practices.

Mr. Gentile said he feels Mr. Kelly's letter should be part of the committee minutes and said if we decide to move ahead with a resolution for the Planning Commission this should also be an attachment to that resolution or ordinance. He said a resolution will help clarify what the Codified states when an applicant comes through Planning Commission.

Mr. Gentile said he and Mr. Kasaris did some research and found that the ORC and the City Charter gave the governing of the right of ways to Council. He said Council has the ability to enter into agreements with other public or private entities for use of the right of way. He said Planning Commission would steer the applicant through the process but Council would have to approve whether or not the applicant is a qualified entity to be allowed to be in the city's right of way. Mr. Willey asked how Council would distinguish one company from another. Mr. Gentile said credentials, financial well being, etc. Mr. Gentile said the Planning Commission can come back to tell the applicant that they cannot extend the gas line because there is already one in place. Mr. Gentile said he feels as long as there is something in writing that regulates this and there is some type of standard in place, certain instances would allow Council to say no.

Mr. Gentile said he and Mr. Kasaris will work on legislation wherein they will incorporate Mr. Kelly's letter.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sanitary Sewer Tie-In

Mr. Schmitzer said there is a resident at 11250 Sprague Road in the City of Parma who has requested to tie into our sanitary sewer system. Mr. Schmitzer said everything is ready to go. He said he has a draft copy of the legislation and a copy of the plan. Mr. Kasaris asked if there are any I&I issues. Mr. Schmitzer said as part of his approval all issues will have to be taken care of prior to the final connection being made.

Mr. Schmitzer said the contractor comes highly recommended and knows what he is doing. He said we will receive approximately \$2,000 up front for permit fees and whatever monies we will get for sewage fees.

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Nickell to **recommend to Council approval of the legislation authorizing the resident at 11250 Sprague Road in Parma, Ohio to tap into the North Royalton sanitary sewer system.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. Motion carried. (Mr. Willey was not in attendance during this portion of the meeting.)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Willey to **adjourn the meeting.** Yeas:3. Nays 0. **Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried.**