

WATER/WASTEWATER COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 18, 2022

Chairman Todd Fleagle called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Todd Fleagle, Jim Christman, Robin Willoughby

Others in Attendance: Mayor, Patrick McGowan; Director of Public Service and Safety, Greg Foxhoven; President of Council, Jim Harris; Law Director, Zach Ferrall; Manager of Industrial and Community Development, Mike Burkholder; Superintendent of Water and Sewer Departments, Jeff Thompson, Superintendent of Water and Sewer Plants; Kelly Jutte, Auditor; Doug Riesen, Representatives of Arcadis via Zoom; Utility Supervisor, Angie Youngs; Council Member, Ashley Randolph; John Burd; Corey Maxwell, *The Evening Leader*.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Robin Willoughby, seconded by Jim Christman, to approve the Minutes of the February 1, 2016, meeting. Motion passed.

Acceptance of Agenda: Motion by Jim Christman, seconded by Robin Willoughby, to accept the Agenda. Motion passed.

Business: Review Sewer Rates

Superintendent Jeff Thompson explained the wastewater rate increase is necessary due to unfunded mandates by the OEPA. He said a total of \$6.8 million dollars will be borrowed from a low interest WPCF State loan program through the OEPA by the end of May, 2022.

Jeff also explained the improvements include upgrades to the existing Wastewater Plant for dewatering systems, pump station upgrades, and UV system replacement. He also noted these improvements are required by the OEPA after extensive negotiations, which could have placed the cost higher.

Kelly Jutte explained the proposed wastewater rate increase is five percent (5%) each year for five years with three percent (3%) thereafter. The increased cost to the normal household will be approximately \$1.00-\$2.00 more per month. The rate increase will also allow for enough funds to allow for a 6 to 9 month cash balance for normal operations.

A letter of intent by the City will be the minimum needed to move forward with the project by May 1, 2022. The rate increase will be implemented to the customers on the June billing. The City will also continue to review all possible grant sources for the project.

Adjourn:

Motion by Jim Christman, seconded by Robin Willoughby, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Fleagle, Chairman