

MINUTES OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
September 16, 2019

The September 16, 2019 Utilities Committee meeting was called to order by Paul Moskun at 5:36 P.M. Present were: Matt Harper, Rob Kairis, Bruce Ribelin, Amy Michael and Joe Bica. Also attending the meeting were Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Mike Reynolds, Utility Billing Supervisor; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Dr. Tim Calfee of 910 Murray Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio; Deena Tannert of 784 East Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Greg Francis of 558 Coolman Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Christina West of 732 Eastland Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Moskun said the first item on the agenda is a request for a meter purchase

Mr. Reynolds explained the meters are approaching the end of their life cycle, with that you get batteries that die. The majority of the funding request is for residential meters. They used a large 6" meter when they hooked up the last trailer park and he needs a couple of those for stock in case something happens. Slightly larger meters are more economical and better for the businesses. They can just change the meter out so they don't go without water and it's easier to just change the head. The last item needed is the antennae for the commercial meters. He does have an annual budget for buying meters but this has been accelerating which is exactly what the \$30,000.00 will be used for.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mr. Moskun said there were a couple of items to be added to the agenda. The first is the water line on Lawrence Street. It will be around \$500,000.00; 60% the City will be paying; 20% a grant through the State. That's if the grant goes through. The project is to be started sometime late summer, early fall.

Ms. Michael said she wasn't following.

The clerk asked if this is a request to authorize the mayor to apply for a grant.

Mr. Moskun responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Cecora asked what year this project would take place.

Mr. Moskun said 2020.

Mr. Cecora said there are budgetary considerations that need to be made. They've already got a project in the pipeline. The City's share would be \$300,000.00.

Mr. Moskun said Mr. Jeffers told him the grant is \$500,000.00. The whole project is \$500,000.00 so the City's portion would be 60% which would be \$300,000.00.

The clerk asked where this grant was being applied through.

Mr. Moskun said he wasn't told and he's not going to speculate.

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Ms. Dubinsky said that the application is due in October. The grant is being applied from the OPWC.

Mr. Cecora said they just had a conversation about long term debt. That's a lot of money.

Mr. Moskun said he's just relaying what he was told this afternoon. He was told the prospective time for this to start was approximately late summer, early fall, next year.

Ms. Michael said she is not really very comfortable moving it forward without more information. She doesn't want to hold it up either.

Ms. Dubinsky said she would ask Mr. Jeffers to send an email with further explanation to Council before Committee of the Whole meeting.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action, pending additional information.

Mr. Moskun said he received an email from Mr. Finney for the parking lot and the asphalt there at the Wastewater Treatment plant to be redone. The plan is next spring. The work will be done this next spring. The contract is with Chagrin Valley Paving. The money is already available.

Mr. Cecora asked when the project is to take place.

Mr. Moskun said it will start next spring.

Ms. Dubinsky said there is a pre-construction hearing tomorrow so she thinks it's going to happen very soon.

Mr. Cecora explained for budgeting purposes, he will need to know when the project will be taking place.

Mr. Moskun said according to the email he received from Mr. Finney, it will be done in the spring.

Ms. Dubinsky said she will find out for sure.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

There being no further items to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 P.M.

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After the meeting adjourned, Deena Tannert asked to speak regarding utilities issues. She said she doesn't know where the water lines are connected but she lives right next door to Mimi's on Main Street. Last Wednesday she came home and there were signs out that there was going to be work done. That was fine. Tuesday and 3:00 in the morning, somebody is out digging in the middle of the road. Needless to say, they ended up running everything and coming back on, great. She didn't know what had happened and what was going on. Then when 11:00 AM rolls around, she actually got a notification from Leslee Keegan's gym that she goes to, that's in the Sports Express Plaza, she got a tag that everybody was on boil alert because there was a water repair line. She doesn't know if hers is connected. She assumes it would have to be because there was air in the line. Her concern is why did they not have better communication? Why is there not a post somewhere on the City's website or Facebook page, maybe the Police Department could put it out there. She knows that's not their problem but she knows that Kent does that a lot.

The clerk explained that the website hasn't worked for over a year. The new website is supposed to go with a test tomorrow afternoon so it will start happening.

Ms. Michael said that it has been a very long process.

Ms. Tannert said, right, but businesses are getting tag alerts for boil and not the residence it kind of a concern to her. There was nothing on her door. She thought, okay she's at work now.

Ms. Michael asked if Ms. Tannert called City Hall and speak with anyone in the Service Department.

Ms. Tannert responded that she did not.

Ms. Michael said they should always call City Hall. If it's late at night the offices are closed, call the Police Department. They have notifications. A lot of times they do post water alerts on their Facebook page. Unfortunately, an average person just isn't going to know that. It's okay to call.

Ms. Tannert asked why the businesses were tagged and not the residents right next door.

Ms. Michael responded that she doesn't have any idea.

Ms. Tannert said that's her issue. She just wanted to see some better communication.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Paul Moskun, Chairman
Utilities Committee