

WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING

September 24, 2020

The Water and Sewer Committee of Chardon City Council met on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room A on the second floor of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Jeffrey Smock, Chairman of the Water and Sewer Committee presiding.

Members of the Water and Sewer Committee present: Deborah Chuha, Jeffrey Smock.

Others present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Finance Director Mate Rogonjic, Public Service Director Paul Hornyak, Clerk of Council Amy Day, City Engineer Doug Courtney, Collin Cunningham.

Mr. Smock called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Smock requested the word "options" be replaced with the word "recommendations" in the minutes that pertain to the discussion concerning water and sewer rates.

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Smock seconded to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting as amended. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the water and sewer rates, Mr. Rogonjic reported that the proposed rate changes would take effect July 2021 when the wastewater treatment plant upgrades surcharge would come off. He stated that in looking at the financial forecast and after further thought, he included a recommendation for a 5% increase to the rates at least once every three years so that there is something in place that has been approved by Council.

Mr. Rogonjic stated that the forecasts and projections for the water/sewer operating funds and capital funds have been included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Smock stated that he has concerns recommending the proposed rates when the projecting ending fund balance is trending downward in the sewer operating fund. He added that in looking at the rate structure, it is nice to see that 72% of people will be paying less until 2027 than they are paying today, but when the sewer operating fund balance is going as low as projected, he thinks the rates should be looked at

further. He would like to see the sewer rate bumped to make up some of what is being projected in the sewer operating fund. He recommended that rather than giving the \$2.10 reduction in July of 2021, he would like to eliminate some of that reduction to get the sewer operating funds in the black.

Mr. Sharpe asked if the committee would want the Finance Director to look at incremental annual increases.

Members of the committee expressed that they are not opposed to annual increases.

Mr. Smock stated that he would like the Finance Director to look at the operating side of rates and project the operating balances out with rates adjustments, before the committee approves it.

Mrs. Chuha concurred.

Regarding the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, Mr. Rogonjic reviewed the plan as it relates to water and sewer projects.

City Engineer Doug Courtney provided additional details on the relining of the South Street water main.

The Committee had no changes to the plan as it was presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Chuha moved and Mr. Smock seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Attest:

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council

