

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
UTILITIES & SEWERS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 30, 2019 3:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CAUCUS ROOM**

Present: Chairman James Trakas
Councilperson Dr. Carl Asseff
Councilperson Dale Veverka

Also Present: Mayor Anthony Togliatti
Vice Mayor Grendel (arrived at 3:29 p.m.)
City Engineer Don Ramm
Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek
Technical Service Director Dave Snyderburn
Finance Assistant Maggie Osysko

Chairman Trakas called the Utilities & Sewers Committee meeting of July 30, 2019 to order at 3:02 p.m.

Chairman Trakas said a quorum is present, and our first order of business is to review and approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2019 meeting.

Moved by Councilperson Veverka, seconded by Councilperson Asseff, to approve the Minutes of March 5, 2019. Voice Vote: 3 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Chairman Trakas said while the Engineer is getting ready, is there anything we want to talk about before he gets his presentation going, or anything you wanted to bring up?

We did have on the agenda a request to discuss the utility poles. If it is okay with everybody, we will do that on the agenda as Number 6. We also have a few folks in the audience who are interested in a project on Dora Blvd., and they wanted to come and discuss things as well. Don, are you prepared to take over the show here?

City Engineer Ramm said I wanted to hand out some things.

Chairman Trakas said the first order of business will be Number 2, discussion of sewer and infrastructure projects.

City Engineer Ramm said that's kind of broad. I wanted to pass out a map that gives flavor of some of the recent calls we received with the wet spring and summer, and then it categorizes the calls by yard flooding, structure flooding and some other things. The one sheet with the blue/green is kind of combination of current utility projects, alternate bid items from our creek

contract and capital jobs. It also has current and future capital projects relative to the water mains and culverts.

So, it was the desire to see or kind of know what, it's really not project driven per se; but some of them will overlap.

Chairman Trakas asked would you like to start with the spring/summer 2019 graphic to give us an update on that? So, obviously one of the goals of this meeting Don is to go over your budgetary requests so that we can submit them for the following year per the Vice Mayor's request and talk about your priorities and needs and see how they match up. I presume they will match up pretty closely with what we were thinking.

City Engineer Ramm said a lot of this first sheet then really has not too much to do with capital projects and budgets.

Chairman Trakas said it could though.

City Engineer Ramm said it could. In fact, the color code, if you notice the one on the bottom, the magenta one, they are current, potential problems that we have already gotten on our radar, things we feel we need to address right now primarily through the Creek and Infrastructure Maintenance Contract.

Basically, we took a number of calls this spring and summer, upwards of 50 calls throughout the City with the predominance of yard flooding of course with the saturated conditions and the excessive rainfall. So, by and large it was yard flooding; but there were handfuls of water, reports of water in basements and garages. Those are denoted with the red circles; and consequently, we have had Joe Potoma in my office trying to prioritize those with residents in terms of reaching out and making appointments with residents, troubleshooting things relative to their storm connections. He has had some success and has been able to bite off a lot of those in concert with our Service Department utilizing a camera, trying to find where there could be potential problems with their connections, things of that nature.

Then in yellow, you see the few. There are only 3, and those were previous residential concerns that were raised at one of the prior Utilities Committee meetings where we went off and did some engineering study. Those are represented there, and while I am not ready to report on those per se; I can tell you that we pursued it and have some preliminary reports back and maybe it would lend for a future meeting to have either myself explain. Some of them are pretty mundane and pretty easy; but the bigger one was the one on Brecksville Road, north of Cornerstone of Hope. It was an excessive study that I think we would like to have a consultant come in and give the overview for that. Those are the 3. So, there was one on Braewood, a couple few residents on Braewood with the stream erosion. There was one isolated residential property on Renwood that had some yard flooding.

Then getting back to the magenta one, we have some issues that we are working through with Geotech. Some of them are active. For instance the Fieldhouse, we did some drainage

improvements behind the Fieldhouse because it was taking on water under heavy rains. That job is not done. We have a little more grading to help really make that a better scenario there.

There have been some things that have come up, a small culvert is failing on Hillside Road down by Twin Creeks at the bend in the road. There is also a stream issue that is upstream from that on Hillside. There are some issues up at the high end of Valley Woods. It has been a problematic area on Valley Woods, water coming in from Seven Hills and the steeper (inaudible), combined with the heavily erodible soils. It just creates maintenance nightmares for us in some rear yards.

Then we found one here recently with a resident on Mackenzie on the cul-de-sac. They were complaining about excessive runoff; and we dug through the highway easement and went over by the ODOT highway; and there's a culvert that comes under ODOT's highway that is letting out water which it is supposed to. Then there's heavy sediment buildup, and the water is basically shooting out of its banks and running where it's not supposed to, coming across and kind of running through backyards where's it's not supposed to be. It is in a back woods area that nobody is going to fix it but for the City getting involved. So, things like that come up where I feel like we need to get Geotech dialed in to address some of these things.

Councilperson Asseff said I have one question for you Don. How many of these are repeat, and how many of these are first time?

City Engineer Ramm said you know that I haven't dug into it. Some are systemic things, every spring and summer you get the call or every fall and spring you get the same sort of yard flooding calls. Some of those are probably repeat, and then when it was an excessive rainfall season; people who weren't calling finally decided to call. It probably runs the gambit.

Chairman Trakas said with respect to that Don, do you see any patterns that are developing that you were surprised at or anything that is happening upstream from us that is causing some things to happen differently? A lot of this is just weather related, but do you see any patterns of anything that's happening around us that we don't control that might be happening and affecting our residents?

City Engineer Ramm said not something that's very predominate. I wouldn't say. There are a couple that may be some neglect over the year, things are in the backlands; and they aren't causing problems. We will just go and look at them, and some of those have finally surfaced because of the conditions, and I think it's time to take some action. So, for a couple of those that are in magenta.

Chairman Trakas said just for the record, I was just curious, how do we communicate from the Creek and Infrastructure Contract that we have with Geotech? How do we communicate to them what an issue might be? Is there a determination that you make? What type of process do you have for that?

City Engineer Ramm said we kind of just had a will call. We just call and say hey we need you in town. You have to look at a laundry list of things. That's generally how we do it. It would be

an e-mail first to tell them hey let's meet; and then we just put them to work when we get them here; and relative to that contract, it started out this year. It was \$400,000 that was in the budget and based on the things we have been doing, we are better than half the year through. We are at right about half of the money; but when you look at some of these needs. I have a sheet that they gave me of an estimate of some of these things that are on our radar that we would like to go do. We could use up that last \$200,000 or \$240,000 right away; and then there's a whole list at the top right corner in blue of alternates that were in the bid that if you pulled the trigger on any number of them you would far exceed the current funding authorization for the contract.

So, while we are talking about budgets, it's not necessarily capital; but it could be either not this month, maybe next month that I would be asking for some additional funding in a change order for Geotech. We wanted to try to bite off a lot of these things while the season is good.

Chairman Trakas said we will talk about that in a second.

Councilperson Veverka asked when the project that took place on Brecksville Road just south of Brookside, Dr. Salem; some of those connections were made that ate up part of the Geotech money?

City Engineer Ramm said yeah, but we were working off of I think was off of the prior year contract because we were able to use up those funds. So, that I don't know if it came out of, I would have to go back and revisit the invoices.

Councilperson Veverka said that was money spent related to that particular project.

City Engineer Ramm said right. We did front end work and gave them connections to then extend it.

Councilperson Veverka said I know that Dr. Salem had that project followed through on her property and extended it. Hopefully that created a good situation for her.

City Engineer Ramm said and no better test to find out whether it worked or not with all the rain.

Chairman Trakas said I think that worked.

City Engineer Ramm said if you have specific questions. I just wanted to share with you what we have been busy with. We have been inundated with calls, and we are trying to get back with folks. The yard flooding ones were not too high on the priority list. We are trying to work through the higher priority ones first and follow it up with residents with yard issues; but you know how the story goes, it's yard flooding to a point that's creeping up against my foundation and to prevent it becoming a bigger foundation problem, we have to try to nip it in the bud ahead of time. So, they are all in the process of being priorities.

Chairman Trakas said well, if it's in your house then it's a higher priority than it is in your backyard somewhere.

City Engineer Ramm said we see it all. It's all that way. We are working through it.

Chairman Trakas said well it's an important schematic. Thank you. Any additional questions on this aspect of it?

Councilperson Veverka said nice map. It's very nice to have this, being able to comprehensively take a look at what you have here. So, it's a very useful tool. Thank you.

City Engineer Ramm said I had these big boards, you think I would have put them up. I will put the next one up. Sometimes it's hard to look at the smaller version. You had both.

So, this board is kind of a combination of some capital projects as well as alternates, and I tried to show current projects with different colors there, some active and current projects ongoing. Things like Brookside/Bramley, Upper Brookside, soon to be going, Brettin, the water main replacements. Lafayette subdivision is going to show up there as a current. So, all of those are represented on the map; and the bottom left is the upcoming. So, in terms of priorities, a lot of these were pulled right from the capital plan that are programmed either in this year or next and beyond. The Hillside Road culvert and water main, that's an active project. That is an old corrugated metal pipe that's been failing over the years, and that needs to be replaced. It's primarily between Vineyard and what would have been the Elmerge extension. The water main is also along that stretch of Hillside and goes all the way to Seven Hills. That water main is old and breaks a lot and has been in our capital plan to fix.

Chairman Trakas asked you don't happen to have costs?

City Engineer Ramm said yeah, but not on this map. That one we submitted an OPWC application for, the one on Hillside; and we didn't get selected. It was over \$2,000,000. It was a big job, and then of course the next couple few there, Longano and Kleber, those are really supplemental to the Brecksville Road main that we are replacing. So, once we upgrade the main. In fact, Fabrizi is out there right now, and we are putting in about 1,600 feet of water main. That is a small snippet of the whole stretch there from the Cloverleaf to Rockside Road that will all be replaced. Once we get that main in then Kleber/Hillside will be very easy to replace those, and then we will also do new roadway projects with those 2 streets.

Then Number 5 on the bottom left, that's kind of a need that doesn't show up anywhere on our Five-Year Plan, but it's definitely something we need to think about. It's really Brecksville Road south of Rockside to Sprague in terms of the water main. The water main is very old, similar to the north end of town, and the pavement is getting to a point where ODOT's programming it I believe for resurfacing of that stretch; and it would be the right time in the next 3 to 4 years. So, we need to start budgeting for that water main replacement. It's going to be expensive.

Chairman Trakas said that's not going to be a cheap one.

City Engineer Ramm said it would be good to start squirreling money over the next 4 to 5 years to try to capture that. That main is I believe 1926 vintage.

Councilperson Asseff asked what's the size of the main that's going to replace it?

City Engineer Ramm said mostly 8 and 12's. We are putting in 12 up there where Fabrizi is working because of the extension of the road by AAA. We want to upsize it.

Councilperson Asseff asked did Cleveland Water contribute anything? Or is it all on us?

City Engineer Ramm said it's all on us. They are local mains that we own and have to maintain them. They fix them under that agreement, but it's just repairs. They don't do whole scale replacements.

Chairman Trakas said well this stretch has to have dozens of failures over the last several years. Why don't you come up with some costs on that where we could plug those into the Five-Year Plan.

City Engineer Ramm said a lot of them are. They are already in the Five-Year Plan.

Chairman Trakas said I'm talking about that Brecksville.

City Engineer Ramm said I am going to use a consultant to try to estimate some of those figures for that.

So, on the bottom right there is the current projects we mentioned. It runs the gambit of storm sewers, water mains. Some are in construction, some are ramping up soon to be in construction and others we are still getting our ducks in a row. We are going to have a Lafayette Subdivision meeting here soon and talk about that because that is coming. A couple we have already had, and Brettin is under construction. Brookside/Bramley is under construction, and we are going to be issuing some updates because some of things are going to start turning loose on facets of construction.

So, Upper Brookside we are doing some exploratory digging because there's a gas main that we are worried about being in conflict with some of the designed storm sewer improvements. They are up there now, yesterday and today trying to do some test digs to locate it and get some shots on things. If there are problems, we will try to design around them before we get the contractor out there working. So, that one is coming, but we are not quite there yet to turn him loose with construction. The contract's been let, and we are ready. We are holding off on the resident meeting for that reason too because some of the stuff they find could potentially impact when they would be starting. So, we only have until some of these things fall into place, we don't want to communicate yet to the residents on Upper Brookside.

Councilperson Asseff said one question on that Number 5 Brecksville water main from Rockside to Sprague. You are going to be tying into some old lines if you go up there.

City Engineer Ramm said we just did. On Brettin we tied in.

Councilperson Asseff asked do you anticipate any issues with that?

City Engineer Ramm said when we come back through we will just have to re-tie it to the main. It might not be necessarily the best order, but it is what it is. You have to catch where the water can be fed from; but it went well. The tap went well. We had some utilities that we had to work around, but there were no problems per se with the water itself. We shut it down, we turned it up and some of that on and off hasn't sprung any leaks up and down like we have seen on Brookside. I would say so far so good.

Councilperson Asseff asked what's the material on the water mains. Are they cast iron or are they plastic?

City Engineer Ramm said ductal iron, and Cleveland Water requires some poly wrap. It kind of prevents corrosion. It keeps the minerals and water away from the pipe. It tries to protect it. It gives it some longevity.

Chairman Trakas said I think there does not appear to be any problem with us getting the projects started in 2019, correct?

City Engineer Ramm agreed.

Chairman Trakas said everything looks like it is still a go.

City Engineer Ramm said and the Hillside culvert that's been programmed. We want to hire a design engineer and get that going this season. So, that we can hit the ground running in the winter even if possible in the coming year to get that going, get it constructed.

Chairman Trakas asked do you want to talk about the Utility Infrastructure Maintenance Contract? We are running out of time in terms of good days. So, we might need to get something in legislation for August if you think. Why don't you go through what you are contemplating priority wise.

City Engineer Ramm said well the only alternate, and that's why it's a different color, is Alternate A; and that was the only one that we have done. That one was really a priority because of the gentleman. It was really in support of a house construction project on Sprague that I felt the City needed to do some stuff in the right-of-way. Some of our road water was kind of draining through that low spot and was causing some problems.

Chairman Trakas said absolutely it was.

City Engineer Ramm said so we secured permission to come on the property, and ultimately got drainage easements. So, we cleaned up and did a lot of pipe work along the right-of-way and then also extended a system up the side yard. So, now we have 2 points of drainage where that water can find its way without going to the house. So, that one was pretty successful. It's not done, we have to do some cleanup and grading and final restoration; but with all this rain this season while he was under construction, it's been pretty good. That one is done.

Out of the next handful there, we would like to do Alternate D. It's been on our books for some time, and it's in an easement. There's a common culvert. It's a local culvert. It was a County culvert at one time. There's a dip in the road by Midland, and it takes a hellacious amount of drainage where the Roberecki house was taken down, that watercourse. Ultimately, that water goes under this culvert, and there are some old gabions that are failing at the inlet side of that culvert; and it's been on our radar. We just have to pull the trigger, but we think it's time to do it. If that thing was to fail or choke that pipe off, it would be a bad scenario. So, that one is a priority, and these are all, we have prices for these; but the funding would be. There would be a potential for the need for funding. We have \$200,000 to play with, but if you start doing a lot of these, then you won't for long. It's not going to go far. Ideally, you would do both, you would do the maintenance needs and you do these alternates or a lot of them.

Chairman Trakas said the West Creek project, refresh my memory, I don't remember that.

City Engineer Ramm said that's an issue. It's a nuance where we have a lot of the drainage of this Fuhrmeyer and Old Brecksville. All that water goes through some really weird big pipes, a lot of it is on private property from the old lumber yard through Kurtz. A lot of that property outlets to a 24 or 30 inch pipe, well back from Granger; but it's taken a lot of road runoff. So, when the (inaudible) job got performed, a lot of that stuff got cleaned up. We cleaned it. We were able to get access to it because once they did the West Creek grading and restoration. We did a lot of work, but the way the pipe outlets to West Creek it's in a configuration where water, it's a problem. So, we would like to make a little bit of a retrofit. It's not a big project. Is it a high priority? Probably not, when the whole area is flooded it doesn't really matter; it's in between the floods is what it is. It would be helpful. So, again I don't think it's a deal breaker.

Then there's one further down, Alternate L, that one is across the street. There is a small ditch that drains to West Creek that we would like to enclose. It gets cattails, and it holds water. That is not a major thing.

Some of them are big. So, like Alternate H and I are major rear yard drainage projects that would benefit; it's basically catch basins and storm sewers in rear yards between those 2 streets, Sunset and Elmwood, and there's a lot of water that just comes through there. We have a number of homes there on Elmwood that have seen some problems with water in their basements, and we feel like these are projects that would help a lot of people, more neighborhood type projects; and we have bids out. They are sizable in terms of dollars.

Chairman Trakas asked when you say sizable?

City Engineer Ramm said a couple of hundred thousand or upwards of \$100,000 or \$150,000. They are up there. They are not \$15,000 or \$20,000 hitters like a lot of these others are.

The Highland one, it's a unique area. Councilperson Veverka where his mother, there's a little backyard areas of both streets, Highland and Midland, small little areas that are actually in a dedicated easement. The old records show that there's an easement to the City, a small hodge podge little sewer that has been neglected for many years; and the water has nowhere to go. That

would be to clean that up, replace the pipe, add basins. It would benefit a handful of homes there in that area.

Chairman Trakas asked is that the one house where the water came into the basement some years ago. I was out there a couple of years ago with General Wagner. You are talking about. That's the same house I'm thinking of.

City Engineer Ramm said it probably is. It probably tried to go through this pipe, and the pipe is full of roots.

Chairman Trakas said it went through the house instead. I know exactly where you are talking about.

City Engineer Ramm said so that one we feel is a legitimate kind, kind of what these sort of alternates kind of should be, areas that the City is somewhat on the hook and obligated for. These are things we shouldn't be shy to go in and correct them.

Chairman Trakas said we have a few folks here today that would be interested in hearing your thoughts on Dora Blvd. as well and Hillside. Alternate G, is that some of the things that we talked about with respect to that project as well?

City Engineer Ramm said this one, Hillside and Dora; that is where, there was a house that every time the water main would break, and there was a dip in the road. All that water because of the topography, it would inundate this foundation; and there's a rear yard basin in the back of that yard that has a small 6 inch pipe that heads north to Dora from Hillside. The house fronts on Hillside, and the rear yard drains towards Dora. This job was to upsize the pipe to allow the flow to take more water because even with a 6 inch, it's taken a lot of foundations directly from a couple few homes there. It is undersized, and it would be to open that pipe up, make it bigger. I don't know if that is specific to that particular alternate.

Chairman Trakas said it could have an impact. I don't know if it's the same. I think what we were discussing was the potential of a larger swale conducting water in the back.

City Engineer Ramm said we plotted it. It's not an alternate. That pipe shows up on that other map. We did plot it. It was the one you asked me to look at. It's in green. That's how we represented it for now, but we do intend to look back there. I believe Sullivan was the name.

Mr. Sullivan was in the audience.

City Engineer Ramm said that's on our list. We walked an easement back there, that drainage easement over the Wisnieski property. There were some dead trees, and we are going to have Service clean that up; but this area is on the other side of that lot. So, we intend to look at it to see, but right now it wasn't an alternate bid or anything. We were notified about it, but that is how it would emanate if we could draw up something. If we think there's other improvements that could be made, we could draw something up; and if there's buy in from residents. It would go to a level that would warrant action.

Chairman Trakas said I think it affects enough residences where you are talking at least 5 or 6 residences that are affected by it.

Mr. Larry Sullivan of 6703 Dora Blvd. said I noticed it within the last 3 years it was coming in when the house was built back there because there was nothing wrong with the drain. It's 6 houses right in a row, and there's a creek on the end of the houses. I don't see why you couldn't lay a pipe or something down in there, put a rock bed in there or something and cover it up and just tie it into the creek. Everybody agreed with me. I have the names and addresses if you want to call them up. Last year I couldn't even cut the grass until a week before the Fourth of July. I had to wait. I had to wait this spring. We can't cut it.

Chairman Trakas said I verified that.

Mr. Sullivan said Jim walked back there and got soaked. That's my issue. It's just not mine, it's the whole 6 houses in a row. There's a creek going way on this end.

City Engineer Ramm said what it's trying to drain to, it's probably flat.

Mr. Sullivan said it's holding all that.

Chairman Trakas said it looks like it should drain, but it doesn't.

Mr. Sullivan said something like that.

City Engineer Ramm said I meant to get back there, make appointments and have them show me and walk it. That is probably where we are at with that one. Until that happens, other than putting a dot on a map, I don't have a real gut feel for it.

Mr. Sullivan said I just didn't go the right way about it.

City Engineer Ramm said you are doing it right. It's just with the volume of calls we are having trouble getting all these things done.

Chairman Trakas said if your house is being flooded, he would have been out there already.

City Engineer Ramm said ideally.

Chairman Trakas said you got our attention, and I think the City has an interest in trying to see what we can do in that area, but with respect to some of the priorities, and you can tell there are some other things where personal property is destroyed as a result of water flow. We will get out there, and we will try to do something. I think the Engineer's thoughts were that maybe we can engineer something that might be able to assist him. It doesn't look like that would happen in the year 2019, but we might at least have what some of the answers might be in 2019. Is that a fair way of saying that Don?

City Engineer Ramm said correct. Now that the creek that you are referring to, that would be the outlet; were they one of the 6 that were asking for a project?

Mr. Sullivan replied yes.

Chairman Trakas said you won't get one person to say nothing is out there.

In terms of maybe work with Gus to seek where we are financially, what you think we might be able to afford and put together; but I think it would make sense to complement some of the existing projects. We might want to start with those from a priority perspective as long as there's something. Obviously, you take your priorities, but if it's complementing a current project, then maybe we might want to do that while we are there. That's always the most efficient way of doing it.

City Engineer Ramm said the deadline for the legislation kind of came and went, but if there was a desire to try to sneak something on for the August agenda for a change order getting back to the Maintenance Creek contract or just wait.

Chairman Trakas said you have a couple of thousand. You are not being held up.

City Engineer Ramm said we are not being held up right now. You know how things sit on First Reading, and now you have 60 days. I want to be cognizant of the timing.

Chairman Trakas asked how late can they get in there and do some of these projects?

City Engineer Ramm said they could work through winter sometimes if it's not too cold.

Chairman Trakas said okay. Run the process the way you want to, but I think there's a desire to do that.

In terms of the 2020 projects, what's the aggregate of the cost that you were looking at?

City Engineer Ramm said that Number 5 is going to be, the Part A, Part B contract. A lot of it is already in the Capital Plan. We have been budgeting for it, so it's really just the other one that is out a number of years. So, we will have time to fill that in, budget for those. Now those are just the ones that were glaring and easy to talk about because we are out there doing the new main out by Stone Road. That is going to support Longano, Kleber and so; it's easy to speak to those. I didn't do an exhaustive review of the Five-Year Plan relative to utilities; but these were the ones that were in my head.

Chairman Trakas said we have time.

Councilperson Asseff said looking into 2019 and 2020, do we have any beyond that which will be a big project that we anticipate.

City Engineer Ramm said you know the neighborhood of Dalebrook, Dalepoint, Valley Vista, there are a lot of bad storm sewers. So, that one is being programmed and budgeted. We have to kind of visit that one. People kind of ignore it, and we keep kicking it down the road because by and large it's sewers that somehow function, and a lot of the homes go out the ravines. So, I think there's not been anybody screaming, jumping up and down because they are being impacted. So, it is easy to sort of push down the road. The pavement is getting older, and it's going to become time to do servicing. At that point you want to make sure to catch these sewers. There's real bad calcification mineral deposits, and it's so hard. United Survey had to rent some cutter from Germany to get this stuff cut out of there. A number of years ago we tested and piled it; and it seemed like it was going to cost us as much to try to grind the minerals out of there and then line it than it was to just rip them out and replace them.

Chairman Trakas said this may or may not be related, but there's several houses on Montello that are losing their backyards to erosion all the time. People are worried that their sheds are going to be falling into the ravine. It is starting to impact quite a bit.

City Engineer Ramm said we have some outfalls for those roads that do dump out in easements, and I am sure those are ready to be replaced.

Chairman Trakas said I think you are right.

City Engineer Ramm said and then private storm connections from gutters and downspouts outlet and that flowing water on a slope is just a recipe for erosion. That's going to be a big job. We have to get refocused and start making some headway.

Chairman Trakas said very good. From your perspective, do you need any people assets to help you? So, you have a staff that works with you. Do you have any desire to add to that staff?

City Engineer Ramm said oh yeah. The Mayor and I have talked about it. It's tough for me to focus on interviews and staff, but totally we could use more people.

Chairman Trakas said since we are talking about budget, we want to be able to put something in for you.

City Engineer Ramm said right because it ultimately affects customer service and being able to respond to residents and answering calls and responding to e-mails and a whole lot of projects. That's going to happen I think when things quiet down here this season, we will get things out of the gate and focus more on it.

Chairman Trakas said when you are talking about capital improvements, we also talk about operational dollars; and I think that's one of the topics that the Finance Committee wants to go through. Any type of preliminaries that you have on that, we would like to be able to give to Finance to consider. I know you have a lot going on, but if you just put a dollar figure on how many human beings you might need and what they might do; that would be helpful for us.

City Engineer Ramm said okay.

Chairman Trakas asked any other questions on these items? There were none.

Any other questions for Don? There were none.

Chairman Trakas said we will see you here in about an hour. Thank you very much. Thanks for your presentation, and we do want to get this over to Finance. So, when you have the chance to work with us on some of the dollar figures, we want to try to get that over to them so they can have them.

The next item on our agenda was other items that may come before the Committee; and I believe one of them is relative to our poles that we were talking about.

Chairman Trakas said we did receive a request to talk a little bit about the poles.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said the LED lighting.

Chairman Trakas said you are welcome to talk about LED lighting.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said and you are familiar with what all of Council has been talking about. So, we met with First Energy, and they came back with their pricing. They are pretty solid on it. The bottom line is they came back, and it will be about \$150,000 a year. That will be the electrical costs and the leasing of the lights costs. Right now First Energy, we pay about \$210,000 a year I think. It would be about \$63,000. I take that back, we pay about \$213,000; so it would be \$63,000. It would be a \$63,000 decrease because it was almost right on the money at \$150,000; and that's electrical costs and leasing the lights.

Councilperson Asseff asked what's the differential? How much leasing and how much electrical?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said well that's a big differential there. The leasing.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek asked Doc you want to know what we pay for the fixture and what we pay for the electrical?

Councilperson Asseff said what we are doing is accumulating it into one number.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said currently on a monthly basis the fixture charge is \$13,000. The other charges which would be the electric and that would be about \$4,500; and \$4,500 versus \$1,300. If we do the proposed tariff by First Energy, the monthly fixture charge would be down to \$10,500 with the other utility charges which would basically be the electric, and that would be about \$2,000.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said so the bulk of it was the leasing of the lights.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said on the proposed tariff it would be 84% which would be for the fixture charge, and 15% would be for the electric.

Councilperson Asseff said so that savings is just pure electric savings.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said the savings based on the electric, the decrease in electric that would be used is about 43%. So, because currently our monthly electric charge is approximately \$4,500; if we do the conversion to the LED, our monthly electric charge would be about \$2,000.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it's just under a 30% savings total.

Chairman Trakas asked and you are recommending that course of action?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I don't know. I want Council to give me direction.

Mayor Togliatti asked do we have a timeframe on the implementation of the new tariffs?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I don't know that answer.

Chairman Trakas said they have to submit under the PUCO right.

Mr. Terry Killen of First Energy said they have been submitted to the Commission. I did the presentation to you. I heard we might be talking about LED lights so I thought I would stop in to see if there were any questions. In fact, the tariff was presented to the Commission a couple of months ago. So, they are finishing up the current experimental LED lighting which expires at the end of this year. We would hope that they are able to approve our proposed tariff prior to the end of the year and get them effective immediately. That's our hope.

Chairman Trakas asked is the temporary tariff the same as what the proposed tariff is?

Mr. Killen said no. The proposed tariff offers some more advantages to the municipality. Less cost to do the conversion. Other options where you might want to have part of your neighborhood just change out at failure which costs nothing, change to LED upon failure. There is no cost there and also offer a financing cost where you can pay a little bit more over time.

Chairman Trakas asked and what are our conversion costs if we do the whole City?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said well with First Energy the conversion cost would be approximately \$300,000, somewhere around there; and I am rounding the figures out. With Tanko the conversion would be \$780,000 I think. We don't know.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said on a per fixture basis First Energy was proposing I think (inaudible) the original number was \$300 a fixture. Tanko is \$300 a fixture, and this is for the purchase of the fixture. First Energy had lowered theirs to I believe it was \$240 or \$250, and Tanko's would still be \$300. First Energy did come down in that aspect.

The biggest thing when you look at this, the energy costs will always be the same, whether we have a Tanko fixture up there or a First Energy fixture which we purchased. If we purchase the fixture, we will not have the fixture charge going forward, with the exception of the unknown if there's going to be a charge for us to attach to the First Energy pole which currently they do charge for like cable companies and such.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it's a very minimal charge.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said currently I think for the cable or telephone company to attach it's like \$12 annually.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said it's \$1.00 a month to attach to the pole. The cost with Tanko, we would have to purchase the fixtures. We would have to purchase First Energy's fixtures; and that's what is First Energy's costs is also with purchasing the old fixtures. In other words, there is life to the old fixtures so they are saying if you want that there is a value to it. Then obviously there would be a court battle.

Councilperson Asseff said I have question here. You said it's \$300,000 to convert.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said yeah round about.

Councilperson Asseff said and we are saving \$30,000 a year in electricity.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said yeah.

Councilperson Asseff said so we are spending \$300,000 to save \$30,000 per year over a 10 year period.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said Doc if the tariffs are correct, if the tariff goes through and we have solid numbers. Like I say, right now we are paying \$213,000 a year to First Energy for their lights and electricity to run those lights. It would go down to \$150,000 a year. It's about a 30% savings. We would be spending \$300,000 around to save \$63,000 a year.

Chairman Trakas said so it pays for itself in 5 years.

Councilperson Asseff said a 5 year return.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said and there's one other thing that has been brought up. It's the fact that say these tariffs are approved by First Energy, there is no guarantee going forward that 2 years into it they could raise the fixture charge or decrease it.

Chairman Trakas said with God all things are possible in Ohio.

Mr. Killen said I think that is all under the guise of the Commission. If there were to be an increase, we would have to prove why we need the increase as there was an actual increase in the

cost of units (inaudible) which would not really increase much because we anticipate a 1% failure rate.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I understand all of that. I get it.

Chairman Trakas said Terry, if the City chose to go ahead with this today, and we obviously can't; so we provide the resources to make this work for you. Could you apply, if the tariff hasn't been approved, are you allowed to apply the tariff on a temporary basis or give us a rebate?

Mr. Killen said we inquired about that, and that's not possible. We have other communities now that are actually part way through their contract with change overs.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said those figures are based on their confidence level that this tariff is going to pass. Those are the figures that they are confident. It's not 100% guaranteed.

Chairman Trakas asked have you ever been to a PUCO meeting?

Several people began speaking at once.

Chairman Trakas said it's a different group of people.

So, if we did this today, how long would we expect a cut over?

Mr. Killen said once you talk about the change in resources, I would say that we would be able to start to working within a couple of weeks, and then we would be able to have, I would imagine, depending on what program you might go with. Do you want to do all of your lights at once, 1,000 lights or if you wanted to save some money and do them upon failure and just do your main roads. You could save some money by doing it that way, but at any rate we would be estimating maybe a 6 month conversion process at the most.

Chairman Trakas asked the committee.

Councilperson Asseff said I think we need to look at where it's critical that we change versus changing them all because some of the neighborhoods are at this point fine. We are just changing the lighting because we are looking at cost and return and need for conservation of those dollars because we have other projects to do.

Chairman Trakas asked Councilperson Veverka what do you think?

Councilperson Veverka said well the idea of your cash savings related to your electric bill. If you don't do all of them at once, then you are not going to get that total payoff, right?

Councilperson Asseff said but we are not spending the same amount of \$300,000. So, it's a blend. It's where do you put your assets first? Where are the most important ones, the main

roads and those kinds of things or some of the more heavily traveled side roads. So, look at that and say okay what's the number. We may conclude and say let's change them all.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said they could probably break that down for you.

Chairman Trakas said would you please Dave.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said as far as Rockside and Brecksville Road, they are the ones who use the most energy. They would probably look at all the cobra heads and break that down and see how much.

Chairman Trakas said Terry if we piece meal this, how does that impact what you guys do? Could you come back on a regular basis as we decide to do these things, or you want to do them in one fell swoop?

Mr. Killen said it really all goes through Engineering. They basically receive a request, and they will draw up a job on a number of lights and locations. It doesn't matter to us, it doesn't change our process by doing half now and others as we go along on failure.

Chairman Trakas said one of the differences with the LED is that if you do it upon failure you have a really mixed neighborhood.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said no, they can't do it that way.

Chairman Trakas said it's hard to do.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said no way, that's the problem we have now. It's part of the reason why this was brought to your attention. We have 3 different lights on Rockside right now.

Mayor Togliatti said and we obviously can't make any decision at this point and time because the tariffs haven't been approved by the PUCO; so I think it's kind of a wait and see. At the same time I believe Tanko Lighting is gaining some traction in the City of Cincinnati with Duke Energy and in Toledo as well and some other communities. So, we can watch what happens in those municipalities and see how these tariffs are approved with First Energy and make a decision at that point and time.

Chairman Trakas asked can you get the committee to work on that a little bit?

Mr. Killen said we want them to move things along; and if I may, I know Tanko's presentation talked about customer owned streetlight rates. Did you make your adjustments to adjust that because it's about one-third of what the actual rate is? If something were to happen, and you were to acquire ours, we don't believe it would be possible; but they would not qualify for customer owned. It spells out clearly, the customer owns the poles, the wires, the brackets, everything. That would not be the case here. They are presuming that there's going to be a rate

of 2.76 cents per hour which is a very good rate, but it depends whether they want to be paying for any infrastructure.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said that would be the court case.

Mr. Killen said it would be more like 9 cents per hour.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said that would be the court case, and that's what they are saying. They don't need to buy it. You don't sell the poles to AT&T, you let them hook up. You let the cable companies hook up to your pole. There could be a fee to hook up to your pole, but they felt confident that they could, we could buy the lights, your lights; and then take them off and put our lights on that bracket. That would be the court.

Mr. Killen said I understand that part, I'm talking about the actual energy charge. The energy charge is one-third of normal.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said their past experience is with other utility companies that they had done this with. I think that both of them, that the best case scenario for Tanko and First Energy is that the worst scenario. There is probably some middle ground, but the end result is there is substantial savings to be had. First, by going to LED, and we think there's definitely an advantage to the City owning the street lights where we can get away from that monthly fixture charge. In 12 years just at the proposed tariff, we would pay \$1,500,000 per fixture for fixture charges; and that's where the big savings is.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said that's where the huge savings is, and quite frankly, your electric costs are very low. Your electric costs per month are under \$2,000. That's \$24,000 a year. You will get new tariffs, that's what you will be charging us, \$24,000 a year in just electricity. Your costs are the leasing of your lights. That is what it is Terry. This has no personal, no nothing against anybody. We are just looking as a City. We have a fiduciary responsibility to our taxpayers.

Chairman Trakas said Dave I think what we were talking about at the last meeting when the Law Director was present that having reviewed the law, Tanko's proposal, the chance of it ever really happening would be very, very slim; and so we have to deal with reality too.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we understand that. We will take that into consideration.

Mr. Killen said I just want to make sure.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said Terry that's why we wanted to bring it up here because we want to, we weren't sure of the costs; and nobody was sure of the costs from First Energy. So, now we have a pretty solid figure, \$150,000, the \$63,000 decrease, the percentage we have. We have all those figures. So, now we are presenting that to you to say hey you are right, if we do all the fixtures, it's a 5 year payback. Each and every year after that, we are saving that.

Now, how often do you go for the tariffs? Is it every 4 years?

Mr. Killen said so this experimental street light tariff was not part of our original rate case. So, the new tariff could be changed.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn asked now how often does First Energy, is there an automatic re-up, is it every 4 years?

Mr. Killen said so the next rate, the next full rate case is in 2024.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said okay, I see.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek asked so the proposed tariff would be good for a 4 year period?

Mr. Killen said essentially.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek asked are you allowed to ask for increases?

Mr. Killen said I never experienced that, and I have been with the company for 30 years.

Chairman Trakas said I think they, I don't think it's been done.

Mr. Killen said I know we had a rate adjustment because the tax decreased because the tax laws changed.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said well you have to reduce ours next.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I guess we can go back and we can figure the mains streets and see what our savings will be and how much it will cost us to change them out.

Chairman Trakas said I would like to start getting going on this. I think the other thing, while it sounds wonderful, it isn't realistic.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we don't want to change them as we burn out. That is off the table. I know that's free of charge, but it's not where we are at.

Councilperson Asseff said well one of the things we can do Dave is if we have a burnout on the street we change them all.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn asked one burn out and change the whole street?

Councilperson Asseff said if we have a problem, when do we do it?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I guess the question is valid. You have about 400 colonial style post lights in the neighborhoods; and those are pretty good and those you aren't going to get as big of a savings with those. So, let's focus on the other 600 lights that we have, a lot of cobra heads and other type of lighting and let's see what our cost savings would be. If you want to do it that way, I don't know your question.

Councilperson Asseff said well we don't know if we want to, but we need to make decisions.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said you will have the information. We could get that information.

Chairman Trakas said \$300,000 is a decent expenditure, but we also have money coming in. At the same time, I don't want to hold out for something I don't think is going to really happen.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said I understand that.

Chairman Trakas said after having talked to our own Law Director.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said listen, we have to get an answer and we have to start because the sooner we start, the sooner we start saving money; and we will have uniform light on Rockside Road. We don't have it right now. That picture looks nice, but when you go down there, it doesn't look right. You have a bunch of high pressure sodiums, you have mercury vapor; it doesn't look professional.

Chairman Trakas said and you want consistent lighting from a safety aspect.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said correct.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked could they break down what the cost of installation would be like just for Rockside Road?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said sure. There's 131 lights on Rockside Road.

Chairman Trakas said if you did Brecksville and Rockside and maybe Pleasant Valley.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we would give you all those cobra heads, we can do that, sure.

Vice Mayor Grendel said then we could decide.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said and based on the tariff presumption, we could give you a cost savings. I am sure we would come pretty close with the figures that Kevin gave us. He broke it down. I would say the minute we start doing it, the minute we start saving money. Granted it will be a little bit of money up front.

Chairman Trakas said you are right, and that's what I am looking at too. I just think we should try to deal with reality here, and I think this is going to be the way we are going to go.

Mayor Togliatti asked and how often does the PUCO meet?

Mr. Killen said they could meet at least weekly if not more often.

Chairman Trakas asked would any action on our part to send down a Resolution stating please consider this before too long would do anything for you?

Mr. Killen said I will see.

Chairman Trakas said talk to the Mayor's office about it.

Mr. Killen said I am sure they would appreciate that.

Chairman Trakas said again, if they are just sitting on something for no good reason.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it might be possible to do so many phases, like one year do Rockside and the next year Brecksville, and then the next year maybe the side streets off of Rockside too. There's Oak Tree and the others. By that time we will know the savings.

Chairman Trakas said especially if you did the business sector first, that might be consistent with what we are trying to accomplish.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said I think Rockside Road just to do 131 fixtures would be like \$40,000 if my math is right.

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we would have to know the overall savings also. We could figure it out.

Chairman Trakas said that's proportional to what you put into it.

Anything else on that topic? There was nothing else.

Chairman Trakas said thanks for the update. I appreciate that. Anything else to come before the Committee at this time? There were no other matters. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Councilperson Asseff, seconded by Councilperson Veverka, to adjourn the Utilities Committee meeting of July 30, 2019. Voice Vote: 3 yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business, the Utilities Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

