

**COMMON COUNCIL
WASTEWATER COMMITTEE
JULY 29, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Wastewater Council Committee met pursuant to public notice on Monday, July 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Mark Boice, Christopher Jensen, and Darren Peterson were present. Brian Ayer was absent.

Also present were Mayor John Ditslear, City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Deputy Mayor Steve Cooke, Wastewater Utility Director Ray Thompson, Controller Jeff Spalding, Utilities Billing Administrator Gerri Henderson, Scott Miller and Andre Riley of Baker Tilly, and Michael Hendricks of American Structurepoint.

Mr. Boice called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Mr. Thompson stated the purpose of this meeting is to review upcoming and future projects and necessary funding. He referred to a series of aerial photos marked with routes of potential projects. He stated brick sewers Downtown will be lined this fall, and rotting corrugated metal storm sewers at various locations in North and South Harbour will be lined as part of the Downtown project. He noted more locations will be relined next year. He reviewed the Long Term Control Project (LTCP) Phase V, which will tie into the Allisonville Road project. He stated new storm sewer will be installed on 4th Street at Plum and Chestnut Streets to tie in to Pleasant Street. He stated a new storm sewer line near the treatment plant could require land acquisition. He noted the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will have to inspect the proposed route for wetlands. He stated the Stony Creek Lift Station needs to be repaired and upgraded to meet service needs. He stated Lift Station 020 will need to be repaired and upgraded in the future depending on growth in the area. Mr. Thompson stated recently a major boiler at the treatment plant developed cracks and will have to be replaced. He stated the total cost of all of the projects is approximately \$20 million. He stated the smaller projects can be funded with cash, but larger projects may need to be financed with bonds.

Mr. Riley and Mr. Miller reviewed the Utilities' financial management report, which they have produced annually since 2003. Mr. Riley stated expenditures have consistently remained close to budgeted amounts. There was a discussion concerning a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to be paid to the Civil City. Mr. Miller stated it is not necessary to pay the full amount of a PILOT; it can start low and be phased in gradually. An increase in tap on fees, which are paid by new development, was discussed. Tap on fees have not been increased for many years. There was a discussion concerning an expected unfunded mandate to reduce nitrogen in wastewater, much as with the recent phosphorus mandate. Mr. Riley and Mr. Miller reviewed projections for bond issuance to fund the large projects. There was a discussion regarding possible participation in the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. Mr. Thompson stated projects take longer to plan for participants because of the extra requirements. Mr. Spalding stated the program could be explored as a funding option.

Mr. Jensen left the meeting at 11:09.

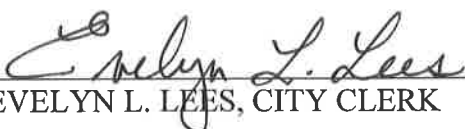
There was a discussion concerning a rate increase. Mr. Boice noted it is best to make small, more frequent general rate increases rather than infrequent, large increases. Ms. Henderson stated the billing office receives many complaints whenever there is a rate increase. Mr. Hendricks noted the largest remonstrance occurred when the trash fee was added to the wastewater bill.

Mayor Ditslear and Mr. Spalding left the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m.

There was a discussion concerning a new trash collection contract, which will be needed in 2020. Because recycling prices have risen significantly, there was concern as to how much the new fee will be. The committee agreed to wait for a new trash collection contract before discussing a wastewater rate increase. Mr. Miller agreed to calculate several possible financing scenarios for the upcoming projects.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.


MARK BOICE, COMMITTEE CHAIR


EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK