

SERVICE COMMITTEE

April 21, 2025

The April 21, 2025 Service Committee meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Dale Rowe, Chairman. Service Committee members present were Aaron Korte, Dale Rowe, and Andy Voorheis.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Dave Schneider, Collections System Supervisor; Aaron Schoenberger, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor; Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor; Tom Karcher; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$100,367.62 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Voorheis, seconded by Mr. Korte, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$100,367.62. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the April 7, 2025 Service Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Service Committee member, were approved as received.

Service Committee members again discussed amendments to Chapter 951 Garbage and Refuse Collection in conjunction with the new automated garbage truck and toter cans. Obtaining an additional toter can from the City for a deposit equal to the cost of the can with the deposit refunded upon return of the can in usable condition and a charging a fee of \$6.00 for each time trash in the extra can is picked up was discussed. Allowing cans that are approved by the Sanitation Department and purchased by individuals to be picked up, and requiring all refuse inside all cans to be bagged was also discussed. For cans removed from residences, requiring individuals to pay the current cost of a can upon final payment of their utility bill was also discussed. The Service Committee will review these revisions at their next meeting.

Service Committee members again reviewed a schedule of charges as presented by Mr. Schneider at the March 17, 2025 Service Committee meeting. It was agreed that the backhoe and check valves and charges for those items should be eliminated from the list. An addition to the list of a minimum of one (1) hour labor charge per employee was discussed. The charge for hourly labor for employees will be obtained from Mrs. Nickie Coppler, City Auditor. It was agreed that these rates will again be discussed at the next Service Committee meeting.

Mayor McColly indicated that the Downtown Committee agreed to proceed with the installation of the barriers to close the east/west alley located between 116 and 120 North Sandusky Avenue, at their meeting held on April 14, 2025.

Mr. Schoenberger presented a statement addressing complaints about the City's water and what the Water Department is doing to address the taste and odor issues being experienced by businesses and residents noting that the treatment technique has been optimized by starting the carbon feed system and sending more water through the nanofiltration membranes, pretreatment and sedimentation tanks were drained and cleaned, and water mains were flushed. Mr. Schoenberger reported that a dive crew from Midco Diving is scheduled to clean the sediment out of the water towers and the clearwell. They will begin on Friday, April 25, 2025 and clean the water tower on Indian Mill Drive, and then they will clean the water tower on Malabar Drive on Saturday, April 26, 2025, and finish up on Sunday, April 27, 2025 cleaning the clearwell. The cleaning should take about eight hours per day and the Water Department will start to flush the water mains again on Monday, April 28, 2025. Samples of customers' water have been taken and tested by an independent lab and all samples revealed the water is safe for consumption. The reservoir has been treated twice since the issue came about, once three weeks ago and again last week. The City has been in contact with the Ohio EPA during the process and the EPA is satisfied with the steps taken to solve the taste and odor issues, and the City is and has been in compliance with the standards set forth by the Ohio EPA for drinking water. Mr. Korte suggested that if the water tower and clearwell cleaning do not resolve the issues the City should proceed with an inquiry with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) for assistance.

Mr. Taylor reported Street Department employees built a goose neck hitch for the new leaf machine trailer which will better distribute the weight of the trailer for towing.

Mr. Taylor also reported that the week of Spring Clean-Up began today and he reminded residents to wrap furniture they want to have picked up.

Mr. Schneider reported that he will soon be working on a sink hole on Highland Parkway, a catch basin on Berry Street, and a manhole on Kroger Drive.

Mayor McColly reported that an application has been submitted for a six month extension for a Sewer Interceptor Project.

Mayor McColly also reported that an open house will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the EMS Building, 401 North Warpole Street, with representatives from the City, the Louis Dreyfus Company, and Peterman Associates. The focus of the open house will be to answer questions from the community regarding the Louis Dreyfus Company's soybean processing facility located to the west of the City in Salem Township, the lift station to be installed, and the water and wastewater extension projects as part of the development.

Mayor McColly indicated that his new Administrative Assistant Ethan Korte began work today.

Mayor McColly further reported that an award summary from the Ohio EPA was received for a \$37,500.00 grant awarded to the City under the H2Ohio Chloride Reduction Grant – Equipment. This 100% grant funding will address the update of one of the City's snow plows, improving the spinner for the salt spreader and hopefully reduce the amount of salt spread on the ground that gets wasted and enters the water supply.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowe, seconded by Mr. Voorheis, to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Service Committee reconvened into regular session.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowe, seconded by Mr. Korte, to recommend to City Council to approve an amendment to the Wage and Salary Ordinance amending the hourly wage of the Utility Office Manager from \$23.22 per hour to a range of \$20.00 to \$24.00 per hour. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Dale Rowe, Chairman