

SERVICE COMMITTEE

May 4, 2026

The May 4, 2026 Service Committee meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Dale Rowe, Chairperson. Service Committee members present were Kate Niederkohr, Dale Rowe, and Andy Voorheis.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Ben Buckland, Law Director; Aaron Schoenberger, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor; Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor; Keith Niederkohr, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor; Randall Besecker, Louis Dreyfus Company; Robert Waxlax, Louis Dreyfus Company; Julia Lemire; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$323,915.37 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Voorheis, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$323,915.37. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the April 20, 2026 Service Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Service Committee member, were approved as received.

Mr. Robert Waxlax, head of Business Development with the Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC), addressed the Service Committee and introduced Mr. Randall Besecker, Commercial Manager for the Upper Sandusky Louis Dreyfus Company facility. Mr. Waxlax shared a proposal for water supply and sewer usage and explained the company's need for additional water supply at its facility. Mr. Waxlax stated that the City initially offered to supply 174 gallons of treated water per minute to the LDC facility which has a demand of approximately 550 gallons per minute. The facility initially planned to make up for the remaining demand by digging multiple wells and tapping into the groundwater, but LDC has since discovered that the wells are not capable of making up the difference and meet the facility's water needs. LDC is offering a two-part proposal to meet their needs in the long term and the short term. In the short term, LDC would pay 100% of the costs to upgrade the City's Water Treatment Plant to increase the capacity; and in the long term, LDC has proposed building a five (5) mile pipeline from their facility to the old reservoir along the CSX railroad tracks which would supply untreated water to the facility to meet their needs. It would take approximately thirty-two (32) to thirty-six (36) weeks for the expanded capacity to be completed, but once completed the need for treated water would no longer be necessary. The City would retain all ownership and operation of the infrastructure. Mr. Waxlax indicated that the City and LDC are still in negotiations over the rates LDC would pay for the additional water as well as the unprocessed water upon completion of the pipeline. Service Committee members voiced their thoughts indicating that the residents of the City should not have to bear any costs associated with the LDC development or operation.

The hiring of a Street and Sanitation Department employee was discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowe, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to hire Shawn Lawhead as a Street and Sanitation Department employee. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Schoenberger reported that new membranes will be installed at the Water Treatment Plant this week.

Mr. Taylor reported on the following:

- Spring Clean-Up for residential sanitation customers took place April 20 - 24, 2026 and it was one of the heaviest in recent history.
- Most upgrades to the wood chipper box have been finished.
- Patriot Truck and Trailer will be adding lighting to the wood chipper box for cases where it is needed at night.
- The dumpster behind A.J.'s Heavenly Pizza, 131 North Sandusky Avenue, has been modified to accommodate space limitations at the rear of their business.
- The Street Department employees will be addressing the removal of a tree on Johnson Street tomorrow.

Mr. Niederkohr reported on the following:

- Additional work at the Tarhe Lift Station will be addressed on Thursday, May 7, 2026.
- A fence around the Tarhe Lift Station and concrete drive to the lift station will be addressed soon.
- Plans were shared for the CH 330 West water and sanitary extensions.
- A sink hole near a catch basin near Keller Street on the west side of the road was recently filled. A rusted pipe was found and it will be replaced with PVC pipe.

Mayor McColly reported on the following:

- Mr. Greg Moon submitted an application with American Electric Power (AEP) for 3-phase electric to the Tarhe Lift Station and this project will be moving forward.
- An agreement has been reached with Choice One for roadway repaving of Commerce Way and Bob Evans Drive.
- Highland Parkway roadway will need to be upgraded with a full depth repair with the upcoming expansion of Uni-Grip and the expected semi-truck traffic on this roadway.
- Additional costs have been encountered with the Interceptor Sewer Project, but the project is still within the contingency.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Dale Rowe, Chairperson