

CITY OF PITTSVILLE
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, December 11, 2024
Community Hall – 5291 Third Avenue

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman, Jerry Jensen.

Members Present: Pat Schmidt, Mark Darr, Deana Becker, Dennis Todd

Also Present: Peter Petersen, Director of Public Works; Dale Nichols, Mayor; Bernard Tritz

No Conflicts of Interest were identified.

Motion by. Pat S. to approve the minutes from November 13, 2024. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

Personal appearance by Bernard Tritz. Dale N. stated that he had messaged Bernard based on the action of the last water/sewer meeting regarding the decision of the Commission and the fines that the Clerk's office has sent to him. Dale states Bernard told him that he has had issues with that sump pump since the early 2000's and that a previous city worker was the one that installed the sump pump incorrectly. Dale states that he offered for the city to get the hose to the road if Bernard was willing to purchase the materials. Bernard wants the hose to be buried. Dale also stated that there are four things that he would like for the commission to decide on at this meeting to try to get this issue resolved. One- if there is any interest from the commission to pay for this project, two- if there could be a time extension granted for Bernard to get this fixed, three- if an extension is given, a thought on when the violation would need to be fixed, and four- dealing with the penalty, do the current fines stand or would those be amended?

Bernard told the Commission that he purchased the home in 2001 and that in 2002 the yard had filled with water. He said he was told by a former city worker, Dennis Zellner, that he had called Earth who had done the work on the road and that Earth wanted Dennis to fix the sump pump in which Dennis did. Bernard said that he feels that if it was Earth's problem back then and they were going to fix it, then he feels that the city should fix it now. Bernard states that he is more than willing to help and take care of the issue, but feels that since a city employee did the work before the ordinance was put in place, that his sump pump is completely legal there because it is "grand fathered" in. He stated again that he will work with the city as long as it is done right, but he does not want a hose laying in the yard.

Peter spoke up and said that he thinks when Earth redid 4th Ave in or around 2003 that Earth was wanting Bernard to have them hook it back up at that time and he stated that this is still a cost to the homeowner. Peter stated that the city helped tie into the sewer but the underground where it is broke, the city did not break. Peter showed an arial picture of Bernards rental property and explained to where the violation is located.

Mark told Bernard that everyone who has gotten these violations in the past has fixed the issues themselves. He said it is hard to do it for one when others haven't had it done for them.

Dennis asked how much Bernard thinks that this will cost to fix. Bernard stated between the couple pipes in the basement and material that will be needed, maybe a couple hundred dollars. Dennis recommends running a hose out in the yard for now until spring, to stop the fines until he is able to get it fixed correctly. Bernard feels the fines are excessive.

Jerry stated the fines cannot be forgiven with the amount of time that he had to fix the issue, and that he needs to fix the issue in order to get the fines to stop. No decisions/ actions were taken.

Renee provided a letter updating the Commission on the water sewer rate case, read by Shannon. There was a public hearing with the PSC on December 10th in the Council Chambers via Zoom, Dennis T., Peter P., Renee L. and Shannon M. attended this meeting. There should be a final report within the next few weeks. From there we will be able to make a plan to provide to the residents with updated rates and effective dates. We are thinking the increase will go into effect the 2nd quarter in 2025.

Motion was made by Pat S. to move Backwash Tank at EP-100 media inspection/upgrade to after Operational report. Second made by Dennis. Motion carried.

Peter discussed the attached Operational Report. Peter hooked the Towne Construction home on Jonathan St. up to water. The last of the manual reads for resident meters have been changed out, leaving Wood co and one other meter at the High School left to do. Water temp is around 52 degrees and they will check frost in the roads next week. Peter reviewed the water tower inspection report along with a slide show. The north side of the water tower needs to be power washed to remove the mildew, that will be done in the spring. The safety ladder on the inside of the tower needs to be replaced. Platform drain needs to be plumbed directly outside, and platforms could use some touch ups. On the sewer side of things, Peter went and looked at Vesper's new covered lagoon. Peter and Josh's certifications have been updated with the DNR. Peter is now an advanced operator for the WWTP. Final review for the WPDES is finishing up and should be coming back soon. Peter showed a sample of the price difference between AgSource and CTL, overall AgSource is cheaper and we will be sticking with them.

Backwash Tank was inspected, this is done every 5 years per DNR. Overall, everything is working well, the top of the media is down about two feet. Discussion was had about just topping off the media or draining it completely and starting with new. It would be a couple day project, if it is drained, they would replace some valves that are starting to stick. This would be done in the fall at the earliest. Peter will get quotes on just adding or a full rehab.

Future Agenda items will include update on Tritz sump pump violation, update on water rate case.

Motion by Dennis T. to approve water vouchers #11893-11912 and sewer vouchers #7831-7847. Second by Deana B. Motion carried.

Peter discussed

Motion by Mark D. to adjourn. Second by Pat S. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,
Shannon Millard,
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer