

## MINUTES

### COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

March 12, 2012

Vice Mayor Terrence Senger called the Council-Manager Briefing to order at 6:03 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Jeff Holtegel, Tim Meyers, Debbie Pennington, Adam Jones, Tim Abbott, Terry Senger and Mike Oler. Staff present: Art Pizzano, Dave Butsch, Dave Crouch, Mark Wendling, Mary Hopton, Angie Jolivette, Don Bennett, Jim Bell, Tim Bachman and Mike Dickey.

#### Public Utilities Capital Planning

Public Utilities Director Dave Crouch discussed the history of the Wastewater infrastructure. He noted the Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1966 and expanded in 1974, 1988, 1997 and 2000. Through those expansions the capacity, the gallons of water that can be treated per day, increased from two million gallons/day to ten million gallons/day. Mr. Crouch stated there is 175 miles of sewer line in the City with most of that line being eight inch through 42 inch concrete, clay and PVC pipe. He briefly discussed sewer problems that began in 1979 and continued over the next decade. He discussed the 1990 backups and sanitary sewer overflows that resulted in the findings and orders from the Ohio EPA. He stated there was a moratorium threatened on building, which brought us to the point of doing master planning and abatement efforts in 1991. Mr. Crouch discussed the master plan included building of the Broadview Pump Station, about five miles of gravity relief sewers, 11,000 feet of 16' force main pipe leaving the pump station, 17,000 of 36" force main, and 9.3 Million gallon storage basins. He stated the initial investment was 16 million dollars. Mr. Crouch noted last year was the worst year on record for rain and the City experienced no sewer backups. The total spending was about \$25 million for the master plan and the improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Crouch stated the Wastewater collection team was recognized last year in a national Municipal Sewer & Water magazine for their efforts to combat the extraneous flow or the I & I that gets into the system. He discussed how this is done through computer modeling and flow monitoring of the system; utilizing trench-less technology for repairs; cleaning the system; televising and manhole rehab. Mr. Crouch further described and discussed the benefits of using insitu lining to line the pipes. He explained how a complete collapse would be repaired. He discussed funds for three line items in the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Crouch explained expansion fees that fed these accounts are not coming in like they were because the town is built out, so a surcharge fee was established in the rates to use in lieu of the expansion fees. He stated there should be \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year to help further sustain the system. He stated the debt in Wastewater will retire between 2017 and 2019. Mr. Crouch discussed the increase in population from 1991 to 2011 of about 2800 people; the flows in the Wastewater system have declined because of the money provided to do these aggressive maintenance programs. Mr. Crouch stated that inflow is the water that enters the system ten to fifteen minutes after it rains, a downspout that is connected from a roof to a sewer line, or a sump pump that collects groundwater that pumps to the sanitary sewer line. He stated that infiltration is water that percolates through the ground, settles in around the trenches where the pipes are at and enters the system through cracks or bad joints in the pipe. City Manager Pizzano explained the insitu lining reduces the infiltration. Mr. Pizzano explained I & I is expensive because water that is not sanitary is being treated. In response to Councilmember Holtegel's question, Mr. Crouch briefly discussed the potential for the EPA to mandate biological nutrient removal, which would cost Fairfield between 20 – 25 million dollars to comply fully to remove a very small portion of phosphorus. He further explained EPA does not have a final draft and people are hard pressed to think that it will imposed in this economic time. Mr. Crouch also commented Fairfield was ahead of the curve with the ultraviolet disinfection system.

Mr. Crouch discussed the history of the Water Treatment Plant which was built in 1957 and expanded in 1984 and 2000. He explained the design capacity went from 750,000 gallons/day through expansion to the current 9.1 million gallons/day. He stated the distribution system is 169 miles of six inch - 20 inch cast and ductile iron pipe. Mr. Crouch displayed and discussed the various pressure zones in Fairfield. He stated water production has increased. He commented lost water, water that we produce that we do not receive revenue on, is watched very closely in which the industry standard is 15% and Fairfield floats between 13 to 18%. He stated he has a goal with the staff to get that down to ten, which can possibly be done through meter upgrades at some of the larger users. He commented they are looking at this closer for the return on investment. Mr. Crouch explained tuberculation, which occurs when iron deposits settle and attach in the pipe reducing water flow, has been found in old pipe from the 1940's and 1950's. He discussed the problems associated with this and the replacements that have been made. Mr. Crouch discussed plans to continue monitoring Fairfield's water age, how long the water is in the tanks, which is currently about two to five days compared to the industry standard of four to five days. Mr. Crouch briefly explained possible improvements for the Hunter tank to improve water age including a mixing system and a booster station. He discussed the problems with water age noting that Fairfield is in great shape. Mr. Crouch discussed the recent water main break on Route 4. He further discussed the water pipe installation dates by decade. Ductile pipe was not used in Fairfield until mid to late 70's. He stated last year there were 44 main breaks. He further stated the Water Research Foundation goal is 15 breaks per 100 miles per year. He explained Fairfield is having more main breaks per year than it should and he would like to make it better. He explained improvements are due to the pipes that have been replaced, the distribution system is being operated, pumps are operated differently, SCADA controls have been adjusted, and work has been done with the Fire Department for hydrants. He stated valves will be exercised more this year. He discussed the number of failures per mile of pipe by pipe age. He stated after 1977 everything was ductile iron which is a much better pipe. Mr. Crouch stated cast iron breaks all the time

compared to the ductile. He discussed the risk assessment positives noting only four percent of the water system is in extreme or in high risk of failure. Mr. Crouch discussed his mitigation plan and how it will give more time to replace pipes. He stated the risk assessment results showed that the highest risk areas are located in the central zone in the vicinity of critical facilities on the cast-iron water mains of the 1960s and 1970s era. He further stated those mains with the highest risk scores account for approximately 3% of the water system. He stated those mains with the highest risk scores account were approximately 3% of the water system that is about six miles of pipe. He further stated it would take fourteen projects and cost 3.5 million dollars without the mitigation factor. He explained the consultant was asked to give the worst case scenario, our town is not that old and the pipes are not that old, he thinks if one to two percent of the water system is looked at annually and two to four miles of pipe are replaced per year after bad spots are surgically repaired we will be no where near spending this type of money. He further stated the current rate structure will support this type of plan. Mr. Crouch recommended the 100 year replacement plan expenditures instead of the 50 year replacement plan. He briefly discussed the Capital Improvement Program expenditures and explained how in five years, one to two miles of pipe could be replaced each year with the current rate structure.

### **New Metric Review**

City Manager Pizzano explained this presentation is being simplified to sort out the most important facts on a more reduced schedule and therefore this will be the last presentation for a short term. Finance Director Mary Hopton stated the money market interest rate bounces between .04 and .05 percent per month on our portfolio. Dave Crouch explained he is looking at the distribution work orders in order to optimize the labor and to work with finance and the billing office to be more efficient in using people. Public Works Director Dave Butsch explained the miles driven are a total of vehicles tracked by mileage. He explained this is looking at a citywide view and they will probably look at it per department to track to see how their mileage goes up and down so departments can work on curbing mileage and to see how it tracks with repairs. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bell discussed the desire to get five dollar revenue for concessions per person and to keep expenses to one dollar in order to net four dollars per golfer. He explained the concession offerings were limited in January, but as the season gets going it should be closer to a net of four dollars. It was noted that the CAC revenue change from 2011 to 2012 should have been negative 30 percent, not a positive 30 percent. Police Chief Mike Dickey discussed the new measure for response time for all calls in which the average is about eight minutes. Fire Chief Don Bennett explained the average dispatch time from the time the operator takes a call until the time it is turned out. He explained it is four minutes forty-seven seconds due to the way the data is being recorded. He further explained the original call time is used for any requests for a second unit. He explained they are working on fine tuning how the data is collected. Development Services Director Tim Bachman discussed the metric he added for unemployment in Fairfield, Butler County, Ohio and the United States.

### **Adjournment**

Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:59p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Jolivette  
Clerk of Council