

WATER/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

June 11, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Aldermen Dorchinecz

Alderman Walters

Alderman Vota

Alderman Budd

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Brotherton

Alderman Moore

Treasurer Nation

Airport Manager Newberry

Ruby/Tom Forrest

Bev Morrison

Superintendent Speagle

Alderman Heberling

Superintendent Jackson

Brad Sassatelli

Dennis Streitmatter

Stephanie Streitmatter

Chairman Dorchinecz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT

The Monthly Status report shows 35% of Lake Taylorville Water was used compared to 65% of Well Water this past month. There were 332 shutoff notices mailed resulting in 35 shutoffs.

WATER BILL LIENS AGAINST PROPERTY

The City Code states that whenever a bill for water service remains unpaid for 60 days, the City Treasurer shall file a lien on the property. Water Chairman Dorchinecz said that in the past, the Water Department has posted Shut Off Notices on the door of the building, but have not placed a lien on the property. He is concerned that if that occupant has left the residence and if the City did place a lien, it would be against the landlord. The Water Department has not been filing liens, but instead placing the account with the Credit Bureau. He was informed by City Clerk Peabody that she has been working with the Credit Bureau to change the current policy in which the City loses 1/3 of the amount for collection services. The Credit Bureau, when directed by City Ordinance, will place their fee on top of the City's so the City will not lose their money. This matter of Credit Bureau fees will be placed on the June 18th Ordinance Committee Agenda.

VERIZON CONTRACT

Superintendent Speagle informed the Committee that City Attorney Romano has made some language changes in the proposal regarding money that Verizon is good with; however, they were not receptive to the language changes. City Attorney Romano will be contacting Verizon's Attorney to attempt to work out this matter and the issue will be brought back to the Committee.

Alderman Vota asked where this revenue would go, General Fund? Water Fund? Lake Restoration? Chairman Dorchinecz stated "we will figure it out".

ANNEXATION ISSUES

Chairman Dorchinecz assured members that they will still be contacting the Prison and Ahlstrom's regarding annexation.

1409 Sangamon Road

The issue of annexing 1409 Sangamon Road failed at City Council last July. Annexing them would have made the road contiguous and the City did not want to take over maintenance of the road. Tom & Ruby Forrest are again requesting water service. Superintendent Speagle feels they should be allowed to access water after filling out an annexation agreement which would allow us to annex in the future if criteria changes. He is asking to allow them water after signage and return of annexation papers and fees. He would like City Attorney Romano to change section 8-4-11A of the City Code giving City Council authority to decide if it is in the City's interest to annex even if the property is contiguous.

Motion by Alderman Walters and seconded by Alderman Budd to recommend to the City Council to allow water service to 1409 Sangamon Road and not annex the property at this time based on approval of the City Attorney and change in the City Code if it is legal (allowed by City Attorney). Motion carried 4-0.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Cross Connection Control

AquaBackflow is sending letters to Cross Connection Control Device Inspectors in the area advising them of the online submittal for inspection forms. Superintendent Speagle has a sample of the user data they are to use to send out surveys for citizens to fill out.

Alderman Walters noted that there are three local plumbing contractors in the area who are certified for Cross Connection Control.

AMR-Automated Meter Reading

We currently have over 3,187 AMR's in the system.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

City Hall Water Leak

Water Department employees have been trying to determine where the water service for the City Hall changes from copper to cast iron as there is a leak inside the building and the plumber may have to go to the wall for repairs. They excavated an area 8 ½ feet deep at the entrance to the Police Department, but found it is still copper there and a ¾" line is running from the inside of the building and extending outside to an unknown location. They will continue looking and coordinate with a plumber when the area is found.

Request for City Water for 1560 N 1100 E Road

Dick Breckenridge resides in City Limits but does not have access to City Water at this time. For us to provide water service to his house would cost in excess of \$150,000.00 as we would have to run a water main north off Route 104. He has signed up with Sharpsburg and Neighboring Area Water (SNAWS) to get access to potable water but SNAWS will require a roadway permit or easement to extend south across 1600 N Road which is also in the City. They are requesting this utility easement.

Superintendent Speagle suggested the City get an agreement where we allow a service line only and in the event that the City would have water service available that SNAWS would cease to serve the customer. Do we have legal authority in the future to disconnect and connect to our system? Chairman Dorchinecz will check with the City Attorney for available options.

Motion by Alderman Walters and seconded by Alderman Vota to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 P.M.

Ernie Dorchinecz, Chairman