

The Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, October 27th, 2021 and began at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chair Mitchell

Members: Cerra, Davis, Keys, Simmons

OTHERS PRESENT: Asst. Law Director Breunig, Asst. Engineer McKillips

1. Approval of the OCTOBER 6th, 2021 Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Keys to approve the meeting minutes as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

2. The matter of the purchase of approving modifications to the City's Wastewater Facility Planning Area (FPA).

Referred By: Engineer John Schneider

Presentation of the City of Elyria Facility Planning Area request for modification for sanitary sewer system from LORCO which involves two different areas and two different townships. The two areas have been addressed in a request to NOACA as part of their 208 process. The request is brought before the committee for consideration. Ms. McKillips introduces Gene Toy, Executive Director from LORCO to answer any questions.

Mrs. Mitchell asked for confirmation that LORCO is asking the City of Elyria to give them two parcels of land that the City of Elyria currently owns that are in our facility planning area. Ms. McKillips confirmed that is correct.

Ms. Davis asked for confirmation of how much land. Ms. McKillips responded 1.2 acres of land. The E.P.A. Environmental Protection Agency has issued an order for the golf course to upgrade or eliminate their existing septic system. The nearest sewer to connect to is LORCO.

Mr. Oswald asked will the City of Elyria service the sewer and water lines and is there any profit to the City? Ms. McKillips confirmed that the City of Elyria will not service the sewer lines. The lines will run through LORCO to Avon Lake premium plant.

Mr. Breunig provided clarification that the water service is completely separate from the sanitary sewer that is being discussed. He provided the explanation of the sanitary sewer facility planning area as the "City of Elyria's exclusive right to serve the area within that boundary, it extends outside the boundaries of the city, we can service area in unincorporated areas as defined by that facility planning area." NOACA is the agency that governs the transfer or modification of that territory among the different political subdivisions, one of them being LORCO. LORCO is requesting that we remove it from our facility planning area and attach it to theirs, meaning they would obtain the exclusive right to sewer the two areas being discussed in the two different townships.

Mr. Breunig stated that not enough information had been provided to his office to make a recommendation. He also stated he would have concern with breaking up the contiguity of the City of Elyria facility planning area in Eaton Township. Mr. Breunig further stated that the Carlisle Township parcel was received in exchange for another parcel in the past. It appears that we would give up what was received without getting anything in return. Mr. Breunig would not recommend giving up our service area due to the fact that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was sized and upgrades made in anticipation of servicing everything within our facility planning

area.

Mr. Cerra asked is there a monetary cost to the City of Elyria. Mr. Breunig responded there is no monetary cost, however there would be a cost to giving up the area. There would be a non-monetary cost in the idea that you're giving up a service area that you would have anticipated future revenues for. Mr. Breunig explains the question is more suitable for Mr. Pileski. Mr. Cerra asked if the LORCO representative could provide more information.

Gene Toy, business address 22898 West Road, Wellington, 44090, approached council. He explained that he wanted to address a couple of things, one being unanimous consent being required to transfer one area from one to another. LORCO has been on the opposite side of that where community of Pheasant Run village was added to Lagrange's facility planning area, where they felt for environmental and economic reasons, that LORCO and Avon Lake was involved, NOACA allowed for the process to continue. Mr. Toy shared that in his discussions with Engineering and Mayor Whitfield, LORCO has indicated that the area near 301 and Butternut Ridge Rd. has sewers available to make capacity for a city project or a developer opposed to spending money or extending or adding on. He explains that LORCO is not asking for something for nothing.

Mr. Cerra expressed his interest considering a portion of the area explained is a high flooding area.

Chair Mitchell asked for clarification of the area in discussion.

Mr. Cerra stated that the area Mr. Toy mentioned runs along a high flooding area.

Mr. Toy apologized for maybe being out of order as he has never been in a meeting before, not familiar with protocol. Offered options for connection that would be submitted to NOACA.

Chair Mitchell stated that the Law Department doesn't have any information pertaining to the facility planning area and that the city would enter into an agreement without first having the Law Department review the information, she believes the committee needs to step back and provide the Law Department the opportunity to review and negotiate.

The recommendation is to table this matter. Ms. Davis agreed.

Mr. Toy asked that consideration be provided for consideration of a December date to go before NOACA.

TABLED

3. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to apply and accept a TLCI (Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative) grant for City of Elyria Wayfinding Signage Project.

Referred By: Engineer John Schneider

[This matter was passed by Finance Committee on Oct. 25th].

Ms. McKillips presented that the City of Elyria submitted an application for a next round TLCI, Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative) grant for the City of Elyria Wayfinding Signage Project, which is listed in the 2015 jumpstart plan, a project that was funded through the TLCI program. The City of Elyria is requesting \$283,550.000 in TLCI grant funds with no local match on the belief that the City would qualify for the disadvantaged community population and would not have to provide a matching share. The wayfinding signs will be citywide, however most of the signs will cover the downtown area. Other areas that will be covered will be the mall area, Lorain County Community College and any other locations that signage would provide direction. A public engagement event will take place to invite public input on signage placement and specific placement points such as East Falls Riverwalk, Cascade Park are standard areas, however there may be other locations to provide direction. The outcome of the grant is scheduled for February 2022. The week of 11/5/2021 the City of Elyria will provide a presentation to NOACA for this grant.

Chair Mitchell asked for clarification on the local match portion of the grant. Ms. McKillips clarified that as long as the City of Elyria meets the disadvantaged communities' criteria there is no local match required, if the criteria is not met, a twenty percent match will be required. Chair Mitchell provided a point of clarification that the finance committee approved this matter on 10/25/2021. Mr. Oswald asked what happens if grant funding is not awarded. Ms. McKillips responded that the project can be completed in phases or with the use of city funds. Mr. Oswald asked if the signs are used as a way to market the City of Elyria. Ms. McKillips responded some of the signs could be used for marketing. Some ideas of signage direction points have been monumental signs, Lake Ave and Gateway Blvd. Park area, art sign on Broad Street are some examples. In addition, identifier signs for shops, courthouse, library, city hall and business district would be considered. Mrs. Keys asked when would the community engagement portion take place, after the grant is received or prior to? Ms. McKillips believes conversations will begin after the grant is received, however believes that conversations can start sooner. Mrs. Davis asked if we have applied for this particular grant before. Ms. McKillips responded yes, shared multiple projects such as the new streetlights downtown, the red pavers, and crosswalks have all been completed with this grant in the past. Chair Mitchell read the committee report.

**Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Simmons seconded to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept, if offered the 'said' grant, Emergency Clause.
MOTION MADE**

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

**Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Davis to Adjourn the Meeting at 6:42 P.M.
MOTION CARRIED**

/RLP