

**The UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**and FINANCE COMMITTEE held a**  
**JOINT MEETING on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:46 P.M.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Finance: Chair Tollett, Schneider, Cerra, Siwierka, Davis  
Utilities: Chair Mitchell, Davis, Oswald, Armstrong, Stewart  
CD: Chair Schneider, Mitchell, Callahan, Oswald, Lipian  
Excused Absence: none

**Administration and Department Heads Present:**

Mayor Brubaker, Law Director Deery, Safety Service Director Pyanowski, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Strohsack, Asst Dir Calvert, Public Works Supervisor Conner, Engineer Schneider, Fire Chief Pronesti, Police Sargent Buckway, Water Team Leader Jacob

**1. The matter of approval of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Utilities Meeting Minutes as circulated.**

Moved by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong to approve the said minutes.

**MOTION CARRIES**

**2. The matter of a contract with CT Consultants for the Lead Service Line Project, (Phase 5). (Joint with Finance & Utilities)**

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Team Leader Jacob said they are applying for five more million dollars in grants and zero percent loans for lead service line replacement and service line id. CT Consultants has worked with the City on the first 4 phases and they've done a fantastic job. Their fee for this phase of the project will be \$142,300. This is emergency.

Mrs. Siwierka asked for an estimate as to where we're at in the project?

Team Leader Jacob said we've received 3 million dollars from the EPA; 2.5 million dollars in forgivable loans and we're getting awarded \$5 million dollars on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 50% will be forgivable, 47% will be at zero percent. We estimate phase 5 will be the end of the lead service lines and all the unknowns, which we have about 4,000 unknowns. By 2027 the City has to have a plan in place to replace all of the lead service lines and figure out all the unknowns in 10 years. We're one of the few cities that jumped on this early and we're way ahead of the game. After we finish phase 4, we should be way over 50% finished.

Mr. Schneider asked about letters that some residents received about potential lead hazards, should the homeowner call the City to schedule something?

Dir Pyanowski said those letters were required by the EPA.

There were different letters, depending of what we understood what might be, with 'unknown' being one of those possibilities. The letter gave instructions to the property owner as to what steps to take. We need to identify what the service line is so we can catalog it and update the records. What action is necessary will be contingent on how that line is identified.

Mr. Jacob said there were 3 different letters that went out; 1.) if there were lead svc lines from the water main to the shut off or the shut off to the water meter, 2.) if we don't know what the lines are, 3.) if galvanized service lines are required to be replaced.

They can send someone to the house to tell what's going into the meter, what's in the yard is totally different, they would have to dig the yard up. The next amount of funds will be used for determining the unknowns and if we find lead or galvanized, we require to replace our side of the main and the customer's side at no charge to the resident.

Mr. Stewart said he appreciates Mr. Jacob's leadership on this. What areas have been focused on?

Team Leader Jacob said we're getting what we know are lead service lines which are mainly the older sections of town. As a contractor goes in, they have to check the service line one by one. When they find out, it's replaced and it's updated in our records. The records go back 100 years and a lot of the addresses don't say what they are.

Mrs. Davis asked about homes built in the 1940's and if they have galvanized pipes?

Team Leader Jacob said there is no rhyme or reason, some older sections have already gotten changed for whatever reason. Part of the grant money will be used so they can check the 4,000 plus homes that are unknown. Most homes built after 1978 do not have lead pipes, but, some still need to be checked.

Dir Pyanowski said Sam and the Water Team have tackled this very aggressively and has put us at an advantageous position because there are not a lot of communities competing for this funding yet. We're at the forefront of this project and we were able to access the grant funding that will dry up when everyone gets close to the deadline. He thanked Sam and the Water Team.

Mrs. Davis asked who should residents contact if want their pipes checked?

Mr. Jacob said they can call 440-244-4310 X6201.

Mr. Oswald asked if they were able to get information on some of the lines from when the water meters were replaced a few years back?

Mr. Jacob said of the 24,000 meters that were replaced, they got information on about 22,000 of the lines on the insides of the homes.

Mr. Schneider asked what the average cost would be for this replacement?

Team Leader Jacob said one million dollars would do about 250 homes, so around \$5,000 for each home.

**Finance:**

**Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mr. Schneider to enter into the 'said' contract with CT Consultants for phase 5 of the 'said' project, Emergency clause requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**Utilities:**

**Mrs. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong to enter into the 'said' contract with CT Consultants for phase 5 of the 'said' project, Emergency requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**3. The matter of a applying for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) or grant thru Ohio EPA for lead service line replacement, (Phase 5). (Joint with Finance & Utilities)**

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Team Leader Jacob said this is the same thing we have done 4 times previously. The EPA said no one has applied for the other monies for this and it's recommended to get the application form in as soon as possible and this is authorizing the Mayor to accept it if / when we're awarded.

**Finance:**

**Mrs. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Cerra to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered, the 'said' grant/loan thru EPA. Emergency clause requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**Utilities:**

**Mr. Oswald moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered, the 'said' grant/loan thru EPA. Emergency requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**4. The matter of advertising for bids and enter into a contract for lead service line replacement, (Phase 5). (Joint with Finance & Utilities)**

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Team Leader Jacob said this is also the thing we have done 4 times previously. This is to advertise for bids in late spring or early summer so it can go to EPA for the award in August.

**Finance:**

**Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mr. Schneider to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into 'said' contract. Emergency clause requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**Utilities:**

**Mr. Oswald moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered, the 'said' grant/loan thru EPA. Emergency requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**5. The matter of applying for and accept, if awarded, the 2025 Community Litter Grant through the Ohio EPA.**

Referred By: Asst Dir Strohsack

Dir Strohsack said this is a grant sponsored by the Ohio EPA – Recycle Ohio Grant. Through all the criteria, they found a provision where we could actually pay a contractor with this grant. They decided to apply the grant toward paying Barnes Nursery, who runs the compost facility. We currently pay the entire amount, which depending on the amount on tonnage is around \$170,000. The grant would cover \$136,469 and we would owe the balance of \$34,117. The match funds are there and would come from the sanitation fund.

**Finance:**

**Mrs. Siwierka moved, seconded by Mr. Cerra to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept the 'said' grant. Emergency clause requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**Utilities:**

**Mr. Oswald moved, seconded by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept the 'said' grant. Emergency requested.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

*No further business to come before the committee and Chair Tollett and Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.*

**Mrs. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Cerra to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Colleen Rosado, Clerk Secretary/Administrative Assistant