



Council Report
City of Pataskala Utility Department
Chris Sharrock, Utility Director

➤ **New Items**

▪ **New Operational Updates**

- Legislation
 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH UNITED SURVEY INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR PHASE 1-B OF THE 2022 SEWER LINING PROJECT
 - This resolution will have United Survey Inc. conduct the lining of the sanitary sewer mains in the Oak Meadow Drive as well as the Linda Avenue areas
- WRF Upgrade
 - We have resubmitted the proper wastewater numbers to the equipment representatives and are waiting on their recommendation
- Meter Reading
 - Meter reading is scheduled for Oct 3
- 2" Waterline Upgrade Project
 - The pressure tests on the new water mains has passed. Currently one of the two bacteria samples is at the lab. Once both samples have passed, the contractor will begin transferring service lines to the new water mains.
- Leaks
 - No comment
- Sewer Flat Rate Correction
 - I am working on the ordinance to establish the phased in approach to correct these sewer rates. I expect to present it to council at the Oct 17 meeting
- Hydrant Training
 - Trent Howell (our Systems Superintendent) coordinated a free hydrant maintenance class that was given at WTP2
 - Members from Buckeye Lake, SWLCWSD and Newark also attended

➤ **Ongoing Items**

• **Water Reclamation Facility**

▪ Daily Operations

- The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of the WRF, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of turning the City's wastewater into clean, safe water that is discharged into the South Fork of the Licking River

▪ WRF Upgrade

- For months, we have been told that the larger Jet Mixing Pumps have been on backorder. Within the last two weeks, it was discovered that this was inaccurate information and that they had indeed not yet been ordered.
 - I have expressed my displeasure with this situation to everyone involved.
 - Currently, a determination is being made on what process addition would best increase our DO levels in the oxidation ditch
 - The larger jet mixer pumps are not believed to be able to correct the DO deficiency. While I agree with this assessment, it is the misleading information that was provided to us that has me frustrated. That erroneous information was provided by me to both Council and the EPA.
 - I am in communication with Verdantas (the design team), Pelton (the equipment sales rep) and Fluidyne (the equipment manufacturer) to decide on the next steps necessary in order to correct the low DO issue
 - I expect that this communication will result in some direction within the next two weeks
 - We have resubmitted the proper wastewater numbers to the equipment representatives and are waiting on their recommendation
- COVID-19 Wastewater Testing
- Pataskala Utility Department was selected to participate in the COVID-19 wastewater testing program
 - This program looks for the virus RNA in the waste stream, giving a more accurate and nearly real-time representation of the infection rate of the community that we serve

- The results of the COVID-19 wastewater testing are currently being posted to the Ohio Corona Virus dashboard found here:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/wastewater>
- The Utility Department will continue to participate in this program as long as it continues to be fully funded by the State

• **Water Treatment Plants**

- Daily Operations
 - The operators maintain exceptional daily operations of both Water Treatment Plants, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing the City's customers clean, safe water that meets or exceeds the requirements from the OEPA.
- Water Plant 1 Iron Filter 2
 - There is a small leak somewhere along the bottom of one of the iron filter tanks at WTP1. Repair will require removal and replacement of the filter media, structural repairs, and recoating of the filter tank surface.
 - This should take place in October
- Strontium
 - During the OEPA WRF inspection, we discussed the Strontium limit on our NPDES for WTP2
 - Valero Energy Company conducted lengthy studies regarding strontium discharge
 - Those studies resulted in a change related to strontium discharge at the federal level
 - I have asked the OEPA consider the new information from that Valero study when renewing our NPDES in the hopes that our strontium concentration limit will be adjusted

• **Distribution and Collection System**

- Daily Operations
 - The systems team maintains exceptional daily operations of the entire distribution and collections system, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They consistently do an outstanding job of providing customer service to the residents, maintaining the city's infrastructure, and responding to emergencies of various types.

- Settlement Lift Station Generator
 - As a part of Phase 3 in Heron Manor, a standby generator for that area's lift station is to be installed
 - The generator has arrived and has been installed onto the pad
 - The gas meter and electrical work still need to be completed before the generator can be used. This is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks
- 2" Waterline Upgrade Project
 - The pressure tests on the new water mains has passed. Currently one of the two bacteria samples is at the lab. Once both samples have passed, the contractor will begin transferring service lines to the new water mains.
- Leaks
 - No comment
- Sewer Slip lining
 - The department applied to OPWC, and was awarded a grant to help fund this project
 - This project will be funded using \$250,000 from HB 168, \$250,000 from OPWC and \$250,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund
 - A preconstruction meeting for this project was held on Sept 9
 - A bid opening for phase 1B of this project is scheduled for Sept 22
- SCADA Prop Study
 - The study on the effectiveness of our SCADA radio system is complete. J&K Communications is currently reviewing the data in order to make a proposal for us to upgrade that outdated system

• **Billing Team**

- Daily Operations
 - The billing team does an exceptional job of processing the payments for water and sewer service, scheduling the service work that needs done as well as providing excellent customer service 8 hours a day, 5 days a week.
- Meter Reading
 - Meter reading is scheduled for Oct 3
- Billing Software Upgrade
 - We have filled out preliminary information needed to transition to the new billing software. This transition is expected to be a six-month process.

- **Director**

- **Legislation**

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 - This resolution will have United Survey Inc. conduct the lining of the sanitary sewer mains in the Oak Meadow Drive as well as the Linda Avenue areas

- **Sewer Flat Rate Correction**

- The second of two letters were mailed out on Sept 12th to inform the affected residents of what is taking place and when the Special Council Meeting will take place.
 - This letter was amended from the first letter to inform customers that they always have the option to install a water meter and be removed from the flat rate sewer structure
 - The Special Council Meeting for this discussion is on Sept 20 at 7pm
 - I am working on the ordinance to establish the phased in approach to correct these sewer rates. I expect to present it to council at the Oct 17 meeting

- **WRF Expansion**

- The first step in a plant expansion is to increase the permit amount of discharge allowed by the OEPA discharge permit. This process requires several studies to be completed including increased loadings, increased flows and alternative treatment options to name a few

- **Safety Program**

- The department requires two safety meetings each month
 - One is done at the team level by the Superintendents covering general safety issues
 - The second is done with the entire staff
 - Each month, a different member of the department will lead this training

- **Hydrant Training**

- Trent Howell (our Systems Superintendent) coordinated a free hydrant maintenance class that was given at WTP2
 - Members from Buckeye Lake, SWLCWSD and Newark also attended

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Sharrock", enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

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