



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

➤ **Utility Department Updates**

• **New Items**

- COVID-19 Wastewater Sampling
 - Following the two week spike mentioned at the last council meeting, the wastewater samples saw a significant decrease in virus count
 - The sample results collected on April 18 were the lowest results we have seen since beginning the testing program last October
 - These results were about half of the previous low number
- WRF Upgrade
 - The concrete work on the Splitter Boxes is completed
 - Kirk Brothers has cited a delay in acquiring the handrails for the catwalks over the tanks and the necessary concrete as the reason for delaying the Jet Aeration system startup until the week of May 17
 - Our EPA compliance rep has been updated on the new schedule and has no concerns at this time
- Leaks
 - 1094 Oxford Drive
 - A hole was discovered in the service line at this location. The service line was replaced with plastic from the corp stop to the curb stop on 4-23-21
- Hydrant Replacement
 - The hydrant on the corner of Depot and Township was replaced on April 29 as a result of repeated failure
- Sanitary Back Up
 - A Sanitary back up was discovered on April 24 along Timber View Ct
 - This is an area of new home construction and it is believed that construction activity caused an obstruction to enter the sanitary main. Ryan homes has coordinated a camera to

be run through this line to attempt to diagnose the problem and look for any other foreign materials

- Meter Reading
 - We will be conducting meter reading on April 30
- WTP1 Iron Filter 2
 - There is a small leak somewhere along the bottom of one of the iron filter tanks at WTP1
 - The initial quote to fix this tank is just under \$50,000
 - We will be getting additional quotes to verify that number
 - We will attempt to make it through until next years budget cycle before making this repair. That schedule could be expedited by a catastrophic failure.
- Utility Plants ATV
 - The ATV for the Utility Plants was delivered on April 23
 - This purchase means that we will no longer contract out snow removal of the plant parking lots.
 - Those savings will equal the cost of the ATV in 4 years

• **Legislation**

- I respectfully request that these ordinances remain on the table while the details get worked out with the Utility Committee
- Ordinances
 - Ordinance 2021-4384
 - An ordinance to amend section 925.01(Water Regulations) Rule 1, Rule 4, and Rule 15
 - These proposed changes to the codified ordinances are intended to bring the ordinance language in line with our operational practices
 - Ordinance 2021-4385
 - An ordinance to amend section 921.02 by adding language to specifically identify the property owner as the individual/entity to be invoiced
 - This proposed change to the codified ordinances is intended to bring the ordinance language in line with our operational practices

- **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

- The Construction for the WRF Upgrade project is underway
- We are holding our mixed liquor solution in the digesters to keep the "bugs" alive during the upgrade construction
 - This solution will be used as a starter colony to bring the plant back online after the upgrade is complete
- Construction on multiple aspects of the project continues
 - The backup chemical feed building foundation has been poured and the building is set
 - The extension of the concrete walls in the Oxidation Ditch are complete
 - The concrete work on the Splitter Boxes is completed
 - The electrical conduit is mostly installed
 - The wires still need to be pulled through that conduit
 - The VFD's for the two influent lift stations to the WRF were installed on April 13 and April 14
 - Kirk Brothers has cited a delay in acquiring the handrails for the catwalks over the tanks and the necessary concrete as the reason for delaying the Jet Aeration system startup until the week of May 17
 - Our EPA compliance rep has been updated on the new schedule and has no concerns at this time
 - While the tentative construction schedule has been delayed multiple times, the overall project is still on schedule and to this point on track to finish under budget

- 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 first round of sampling began the week of Oct 12
 - We will collect two samples a week as a part of this program

- The results of the COVID-19 wastewater testing is currently being posted to the Ohio Corona Virus dashboard found here:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/wastewater>
- Following the two-week spike mentioned at the last council meeting, the wastewater samples saw a significant decrease in virus count
 - The sample results collected on April 18 were the lowest results we have seen since beginning the testing program last October
 - These results were about half of the previous low number

• **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.
- WTP1 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.
 - The initial quote to fix this tank is just under \$50,000
 - We will be getting additional quotes to verify that number
 - We will attempt to make it through until next years budget cycle before making this repair. That schedule could be expedited by a catastrophic failure.
- Strontium
 - The strontium levels in our waste stream at WTP2 continues to sporadically fluctuate, making permit compliance difficult
 - We have increased our sampling process to try to identify when, where, and why the strontium spikes at random intervals
 - In the meantime, we are using a holding tank/ dilution water system to reduce the concentration levels to within our permit restrictions.

• **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.

▪ COVID-19 procedures

- The systems team returned to a full schedule on May 18
 - If a service order is requested that would require one of our technicians to enter a residence, we will make every attempt possible to walk the resident through our procedures over the phone. If this will not suffice, our technicians will respond in person. They will wear a mask and gloves the entire time that they are in the residence.
 - We will reserve the right to reschedule the service order should the customer display symptoms of COVID-19
 - We have 2 no contact thermometers. We will take the temperature of any customers requesting that we enter a residence. If their temperature is above 99.9 degrees, we will reschedule the service order.
 - These measures will continue to be in effect until further notice.

▪ Jefferson Street Waterline Project

- The OPWC application was submitted on November 5 for review
 - The Jefferson Street Waterline Project has been recommended by the District to the State for funding assistance
 - The State will have to officially recommend acceptance as well, however recommendation from the District is usually a good indicator that the State will recommend
 - Should the State also recommend approval, the City will receive \$259,882 in grant money for the Jefferson Street Water Line Project
 - This project will include a complete resurfacing of Jefferson Street and Depot Street from Main St to Township Road

- I have decided to push the start of this project off until the spring of 2021
 - The funds will not be released until July 1 at the earliest
 - COVID impact on the state budget could delay this date
 - This means that a contractor would not be able to start until Aug 1 at the earliest
 - The Street fair would mean that a contractor would not be able to start until the end of August at the earliest
 - This would still allow us enough time to install the waterline before the winter, but would not allow for the roadway to be resurfaced until the spring of 2021
 - I believe that we will get better prices on the bids if we bid it out at the end of the year for a Spring 2021 start as contractors begin filling their schedules
 - The delayed start time will not impact our Grant funding
- Valve Exercising Program
 - The Systems Team has resumed our Valve Exercising Program
 - This program forces us to fully open and then fully close all our water valves in the system
 - This program will cause some valves to fail during operation. These valves will need to be replaced on an emergency basis. Finding and removing valves that are ready to fail is the intent of this program.
- Leaks
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- **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

- We will be conducting meter reading on April 30

- **Director**

- Construction Projects

- Heron Manor

- Reviewed plans for the Heron Manor development

- A requirement was made to install a full-size generator for the Settlement Lift Station after the completion of phase 3. Due to some phasing changes, we will require the generator to be installed after the completion of the first 63 lots

- Currently reviewing plans for phase 3

- Submitted comments on 12-29-20
- Those comments included a reminder that a standby generator is required at the Settlement Lift Station before they can begin Phase 3 building construction

- Bryn Mar Crossing

- I have reviewed the construction plans and submitted my comments to the planning and zoning department

- Following their resubmittal, I submitted additional comments to the planning and zoning department

- Scenic View Estates

- Plans in for review

- Forest Ridge

- Plans in for review

- New Vehicles

- The two new trucks ordered by the department for 2020 are on a delay due to the COVID-19 situation

- One of the two trucks was delivered on October 30, the other is expected soon

- Utility Plants ATV

- The ATV for the Utility Plants was delivered on April 23

- This purchase means that we will no longer contract out snow removal of the plant parking lots.
 - Those savings will equal the cost of the ATV in 4 years
- 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
- SR 310 Interconnect
 - Southwest Licking and the City of Pataskala have agreed to utilize the design engineering services of Hull Inc. for the SR 310 Interconnect
 - This is the interconnect agreed to in the current Water and Sewer Agreement between the two entities
 - This project is being completely funded by an escrow account contributed to equally by both entities
 - Surveying is complete and the design is underway
- Regulatory Reports
 - CCR (Consumer Confidence Report)
 - I have begun work on the CCR for 2020. This report is due to the OEPA by July 1
 - I have sent this report into the OEPA for review and once I receive approval, we will make the report public

Respectfully submitted,



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