



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

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➤ **Utility Department Updates**

• **New Items**

- Utility Committee
  - A Utility Committee meeting was held on 5-13-21
    - Discussion included a WRF update, staffing level concerns, and continued discussion on the codified ordinances for water and sewer service
- COVID-19 Wastewater Sampling
  - Following the spike mentioned at the last council meeting, the wastewater samples saw a significant decrease in virus count
    - The most recent sample results have fallen back to levels similar to what we saw before the holiday season last fall
- WRF Upgrade
  - The return of flow to the Oxidation Ditch will begin on May 18. It is expected to take at least three days to slowly fill the Ditch and check the new equipment
    - Representatives for the new equipment will be on site to monitor the start up and provide the necessary training
    - We will remove the aeration equipment from the lagoons the week following the return to the Oxidation Ditch
    - It should be noted that just because we return the flow to the Oxidation Ditch that week does not mean that we will not have any further odor complaints. The biological activity in the lagoons will continue for a few weeks after we stop sending the wastewater flow to the lagoons.
- Leaks
  - No Comment
- Hydrant Replacement
  - The hydrant on the corner of Depot and Township was replaced on May 11 as a result of repeated failure
    - This hydrant was rescheduled from the information on the last council report due to poor weather

- Turn Offs
  - Turn offs for non-payment are scheduled for May 19
- Annual Reports
  - I have completed the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) as required by the OEPA
  - I have also completed the departments annual WRF Report and the annual Utility Report
    - These reports are not required by the OEPA, but are used as a summary of the previous years activities in the Utility Department
    - The annual WRF Report clearly shows the reduced treatment efficiency once the wastewater flow was diverted into the lagoons for the upgrade project
  - A copy of these three reports are included with the council packet
- Old Town Hall AC painting
  - I have begun scheduling quotes to paint the AC ductwork on the back of the Old Town Hall

• **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 installed
    - The VFD's for the two influent lift stations to the WRF were installed on April 13 and April 14
  - The return of flow to the Oxidation Ditch will begin on May 18. It is expected to take at least three days to slowly fill the Ditch and check the new equipment
    - Representatives for the new equipment will be on site to monitor the start up and provide the necessary training
    - We will remove the aeration equipment from the lagoons the week following the return to the Oxidation Ditch
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- 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 spike mentioned at the last council meeting, the wastewater samples saw a significant decrease in virus count
  - The most recent sample results have fallen back to levels similar to what we saw before the holiday season last fall

- **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 for pricing, scheduling and the street fair
- 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
  - No Comment
- Hydrant Replacement
  - The hydrant on the corner of Depot and Township was replaced on May 11 as a result of repeated failure
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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.
  - Turn Offs
    - Turn offs for non-payment are scheduled for May 19
- **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
        - Generator installation has been coordinated and will be completed by the completion of phase 3
    - 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
      - Engineering plans in for review
    - Forest Ridge
      - Preliminary plans in for review

- 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
    - Surveying is complete and the design is underway
- Annual Reports
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Respectfully submitted,



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