



Council Report City of Pataskala Utility Department Trent Howell, Acting Utility Director

➤ New Items

• New Operational Updates

- Ordinance 2023-4445 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023
 - The Utility Department applied for, but did not receive OPWC funding for the generator project
 - The Utility portion of this ordinance is to move the funds in the budget around to complete a smaller scale generator project using the money that we were going to use as the local match in the original project
- Meter Reading
 - Meter Reading will be conducted on March 1st
- Leaks
 - No comment
- Sewer Slip Lining
 - Phase 1-B contractor USI has completed all the work under initial scope. The project has enough remaining funds to complete additional bid #1 (lining the sewer line in the alley between 2nd and 3rd street)
 - Phase 1 contractor Visu Sewer has finished their pre-construction cleaning and camera work. They also raised a manhole in preparation to do the lining work
- Bulk Water Fill Station
 - The concrete pad for the station has been poured and after cured the station will be set in its permanent location
- WTP1 Softener Discharge Overflow Channel
 - Rodger Dorsey installed a concrete trough between two drain pits to help with excess water from the backwash process
 - The project is working as expected

- Training
 - The City of Newark reached out and invited the Utilities Dept. to participate in two different free continuing education training courses John and Connor and Rich took advantage of the worth while training
- CRLS
 - 60% design review of the CRLS
 - Review has taken place and comments have been submitted to Strand for inclusion

➤ **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
 - Waiting on the blowers to be delivered
 - Design for the blowers is currently taking place
- 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.
- The repair crew came out on Jan 11 to analyze the leak and see if repairs can be made. That analysis was not yet completed at the time of this report. Updates will be provided to council at a later date

- Water Plant 1 Maintenance

- Rodger Dorsey installed a concrete trough between two drain pits to help with excess water from the backwash process
 - The project is working as expected

- **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.

- Leaks

- No comment

- Creek Rd L/S

- 60% design reviewed
 - Review has taken place and comments have been submitted to Strand for inclusion

- Sewer Slip lining
 - Both phases of the sewer lining project are underway. The contractor has been very responsive to customer questions and concerns
 - This phase of the project is expected to last about a month, weather permitting
 - The contractor is notifying each resident whose sewer line connects to the portion of the main being lined at least 24 hours in advance to the work taking place
 - While the lining is occurring, we are encouraging residents to limit their usage as the liner will temporarily block their sewer line connection. Once the liner is installed, an opening is cut to return service to each connection. This work all takes place on the same day, limiting the inconvenience to our customers. This is explained in the notice provided by the contractor.
 - As a reminder, this work is being partially paid for by two grants. One through HB 168 and one through OPWC.
 - The grants total \$500,000 and the local share is \$250,000 coming from our Sewer Capital Improvements Fund
 - Phase 1-B contractor USI has completed all the work under initial scope. The project has enough remaining funds to complete additional bid #1 (lining the sewer line in the alley between 2nd and 3rd street)
 - Phase 1 contractor Visu Sewer has finished their pre-construction cleaning and camera work. They also raised a manhole in preparation to do the lining work
- WTP1 Softener Discharge Overflow Channel
 - The concrete pad for the station has been poured and after cured the station will be set in its permanent location
- 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 Reads

- Meter Reading will be conducted on March 1st

- New Billing System Software

- The training for the new billing system software is in full swing. The new system is very different from the old but is identical to the finance system that we use in all other aspects of the Administration. This should streamline the Utility Billing to Finance Department interactions. We still have an anticipated “go live” date of April 2023

- **Director**

- WRF Expansion

- Until the WRF permit is expanded, we will not be able to provide sewer service for any additional significant development projects within the Pataskala Utility Department sewer service area
 - This excludes developments who are already in the process
- The process to apply for an expanded permit at the WRF is still ongoing. The EPA has stated that they are conducting a study on the receiving waters and will not be able to review any applications until that study is complete. They have stated that the study should be completed by Feb 13.
- Discussions with SWLCWSD about the State 208 Plan requirements are ongoing.
 - The State 208 Plan requires us to discuss regionalization with SWLCWSD and to provide a letter documenting that discussion and an agreement on the requested expansion from Pataskala before any permit expansion can be granted. At this point, SWLCWSD has concerns about the increased flow numbers that we are seeking.
 - Discussions with the EPA on how to navigate the State 208 Plan are ongoing.

- It is important to note that until the permit is expanded, we are at the point of denying service to new development in our service area.
- 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
- Training
 - The City of Newark reached out and invited the Utilities Dept. to participate in two different free continuing education training courses John and Connor took advantage of the worthwhile training
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Respectfully submitted,

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