



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

---

➤ **New Items**

• **New Operational Updates**

- RFQ for the WRF Capacity Expansion Project
  - There were three firms that submitted to the RFQ for the WRF Capacity Expansion Project.
  - Review and Scoring of the three firms took place on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The outcome of the Review and Scoring process is as follows. The top two scoring firms have been contacted by the utility department to participate in a one-on-one interview.
  - After the interviews have taken place, a selection will be made to move forward with the selected firm to obtain a cost for the design of the project. The Utility Department hopes to have a cost to present to Utility Committie and Council by mid to late February.
- Creek Road Force Main Upgrade Project update
  - On January 23, 2024, the Utility Department notified Strand Associates that their firm had been selected to perform the CA and CI for the for the project.
  - Strand Associates has coordinated with the City and Tuson LLC to set up a pre-construction meeting that will take place in the near future.
- Well #2 at WTP#2
  - The motor for well #2 was determined to be faulty.
  - Mount Well Drilling made priority to replace the motor and the wiring from the motor to the disconnect.
- Utility Service Tech open position
  - All Three interviews were conducted January 19, 2024.
  - Brandon Gibson was selected to fill the position. Brandon has completed all pre-employment steps and is awaiting results.

- Leaks
  - Water Plant #1 Feed line to the plant from Well #5 circular crack in the pipe.
  - 38 Hillgail Rd. SW replaced saddle and service line.
- Meter Reading
  - Meter Reading will take place February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **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
  - Blowers have been delivered.
  - Design for the blowers has been completed.
  - Currently waiting on contractor to start site work.
- 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 with 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 the council at a later date.
- Well #2 at WTP#2
  - The motor for well #2 was determined to be faulty.
  - Mount Well Drilling made priority to replace the motor and the wiring from the motor to the disconnect.

• **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
  - Water Plant #1 Feed line to the plant from Well #5 circular crack in the pipe.
  - 38 Hillgail Rd. SW replaced saddle and service line.
- Sewer Lining Project
  - The sewer lining project has been completed. The project utilized OPWC and House Bill 168 funding to help complete the project.
  - Visu Sewer and United Survey contractors for this project, both did a great job and have been great to work with.
- SCADA Prop Study
  - The study on the effectiveness of our SCADA radio system is complete. J&K Communications is currently reviewing the data to make a proposal for us to upgrade that outdated system.
- Fire Hydrant Painting

- I received an email from Iva O’Ryan with Licking Hights High School. Iva supervises a community service project for the school, organizing kids to paint fire hydrants for the Utility Department. This project has been running for a few years, and is working very well. The Utility Department is very grateful for all the time and effort that Iva and the students put into this project.

- **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 will take place February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **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 permit expansion request was submitted to the EPA on May19th.
    - We expect there to be a 6-month review period by the
    - EPA.
- RFQ for the WRF Capacity Expansion Project
  - There were three firms that submitted to the RFQ for the WRF Capacity Expansion Project.
  - Review and Scoring of the three firms took place on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The outcome of the Review and Scoring process is as follows. The top two scoring firms have been contacted by the utility department to participate in a one-on-one interview.
  - After the interviews have taken place, a selection will be made to move forward with the selected firm to obtain a cost for the design of the project. The Utility Department hopes to have a cost to present to Utility Committie and Council by mid to late February.

- Creek Road Force Main Upgrade Project update
  - On January 23, 2024, the Utility Department notified Strand Associates that their firm had been selected to perform the CA and CI for the for the project.
  - Strand Associates has coordinated with the City and Tuson LLC to set up a pre-construction that will take place in the near future.
- Utility Service Tech open position
  - All Three interviews were conducted January 19, 2024.
  - Brandon Gibson was selected to fill the position. Brandon has completed all pre-employment steps and is awaiting results.
- 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Trent Howell  
Utility Director  
thowell@ci.pataskala.oh.us  
(740) 927-4134