



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

February 19, 2019

Summary and Motions

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Committee Members Kay, Moloney, McCurn, Gibbs, Evans, F. Brown, Mossotti, and Bledsoe were present. Committee Member Worley was absent. Council Members Reynolds and Plomin were also in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of January 22, 2019 Committee Summary

A motion was made by VM Kay to approve the January 22, 2019 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary, seconded by CM F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Update on Consent Decree Remedial Measures Plan

Director Martin provided an update on the EPA Consent Decree Remedial Measures Plan (RMP). He said the plan is to be complete by December 31, 2026 and we are about halfway through at this point. He provided an expense comparison for contractual projection versus actual and explained how expenses have fallen below estimates.

Chair Farmer questioned if money has been saved due to interest savings from KIA. Martin confirmed and explained the savings.

CM F. Brown asked if sanitary sewer projects were being done in correlation with Stormwater management. Martin said whenever it is possible they try to address both at the same time. F. Brown commented on activity surrounding a church on Armstrong Mill and asked if that was a sanitary sewer project and if it a Consent Decree project. Martin explained that it is a sanitary sewer project already under construction and he pointed out where the project could be found on the project list provided in the packet.

CM Mossotti asked if private easements could delay projects and Martin confirmed. Mossotti asked if it is possible to meet with these people early on to deal with these easements, particularly because the price of property is increasing. Martin said they do not have a plan now but they know they need to get ahead of these. He said because it is a gravity sewer, there is a specific way the work has to be done so the pieces will align. He said part of that methodology in getting further out ahead of this is to use existing alignments and remove the old pipe, putting a new one in its place. Mossotti commented on remediating sanitary sewer overflows and a number of manholes that overflow with heavy rain that are within 30 feet of stream. She asked what can be done with the ones that are not on the list or cannot be remediated. Martin said if they cannot be remediated through the consent decree, we will have to pay fines in the future. Mossotti said if they are not on the list, they should be brought forward so they can be taken care of. Martin referred to the list of projects and said one of those projects is flow monitoring and we are in the process of recalibrating our models for the whole system evaluating what projects need to be added to the RMP and which do not. He said there is supposed to be a phase 2 wet weather storage tank at town branch and with all of the rain we have had, we have not filled the existing tank. He said he does not want to spend money on a tank we do not need and not addressing other issues.

CM Bledsoe commented on a project in her district and how well it was handled by the Division of Water Quality. She expressed appreciation for the thought that has been put into neighborhood engagement.

CM Plomin commented on escalating project costs and ways to lower these costs. She asked about alternative construction materials and if we are looking at less expensive options. Martin said we are looking at less expensive options or ones that might be a trade-off and he provided examples of this. Plomin asked what the advantage of the new unit price contracts would be. Martin said this has not started yet and he explained how the contractor capacity is limited in Lexington and he spoke about communications with Louisville and Northern Kentucky and importance of working together.

Chair Farmer asked how we quantify pressure on rates at this time and if it is over or under. Martin said he cannot say now; however, there hasn't been a significant rate increase in a while and there is concern one may be coming. Farmer asked what the current size of the pipe is and what it will be replaced with. Martin said the pipe would be anywhere from 15 to 30 inches and 8 to 12 feet in depth. Martin said the carrying capacity is based on the slope. If it is a flat slope, you need to make the pipe bigger, but if it is a steep slope then it will carry more. Farmer asked how this is navigated. Martin said it is navigated through manholes anytime there is a change in elevation or a change in direction, there is a manhole.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. Division of Water Quality Projects Update

Director Martin provided an update on the Division of Water Quality Projects. He said there are 116 projects currently in process and he commented on turnover in the division as well.

CM F. Brown referenced #39 on the schedule that shows a deadline of December 2018 and asked if this is still being worked on. Martin said they are projecting completion in April now. He added that we have many projects that are behind schedule at this time. He is more concerned about projects that have not been started yet. F. Brown commented on the number of contractors and asked if they are being monitored. Martin said there is one contractor who is responsible for monitoring. F. Brown asked if we are doing anything with Jessamine County in relation to these projects. Martin said LFUCG has a Master Agreement with Jessamine South Elkhorn Water District. We are contractually obligated to provide them up to 2 million gallons capacity at West Hickman which has been in place prior to Consent Decree, but we do not provide service or maintenance.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

IV. Annual Energy Improvement Plan Update

James Bush provided the annual update on energy initiatives. He reviewed utility expenditures, FY18 projects, and the Energy Improvement Fund Balance.

CM Mossotti asked if the council needed to intervene in this process. Bush said yes if there are specific goals council has for them. Mossotti asked Bush to come to council and state specifically where the guidance would be helpful.

CM F. Brown commented on the fund balances and asked if they are for capital projects. Bush commented on the use of the funds and their budget process. F. Brown said he would like to know the utility cost associated with facilities we lease or own. Bush said the data set includes any utility bill we pay; if it is a facility we do not pay utilities on we would have to get that information. F. Brown explained

he is looking for a savings when getting out of our existing leases and moving to a new city hall. Bush said he has helped with analysis regarding replacement of the downtown building with a modern efficiency facility and the amount that would be saved.

CM Gibbs commented on grid tie solar and asked how net metering legislation will affect this. Bush said the bill coming through impacts the cost that the utility company reimburses the owner only when pushing energy outside the facility back into the grid. He said we have the ability to lessen the impact of changes proposed to the net metering law.

Chair Farmer commented on the items in consideration and asked if there was dynamic effort in looking at these opportunities. He said committee members have a vested interest in the opportunity being brought forth each time this item is presented. He suggested an update in less than one year's time rather than an annual update.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

V. Items Referred to Committee

No other comment or action was taken on this item.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

KT 2.27.2019