Utilities Committee

March 9, 2020

Present: Committee Members Fleck, Sovinski and Buxton; Council Members Clausen, Lochtefeld, Scott and Fleck, Mayor Hazel; Auditor Strawn; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard.

Committee Chairman Fleck called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Director Hitchcock explained the expense of new electric line extensions are built into the City’s rate structure and paid back over an average 12-month period. CM Sovinski asked if the citizens of Celina are paying for new extensions outside of the City. Director Hitchcock responded City is only responsible for 50% of the costs for outside extensions. Only the inside extensions are 100% paid by the City.

Director Hitchcock explained the EPA sanitary sewer discharge permit is expired. The EPA is requesting the City update the storm water codes prior to issuing a new permit. These updates put more detail in the Ordinance. The first section deals with sanitary that is going into the storm sewer. The second section requires any construction over an acre has to have methods in place to restrict runoff. It also requires contractors to get an NOI. The current Ordinance had no teeth on requirements, and this will solve that. Any community over 10,000 in population needs to follow these regulations. A penalty of a minor misdemeanor will be charged for non-compliance.

CM Sovinski asked if there are any areas that we can address the storm water backup problems. Director Hitchcock explained administration has been meeting with the Mercer County Soil and Water who has a grant that might be available to purchase farm ground to put in detention ponds. Further discussion was held by members on rain water backup.

Chairman Fleck adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council