

MINUTES  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

The public works committee met on September 4, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Chairman Gould, Alderman Sharp, Alderman Hughes, Mayor White, City Engineer Coulter, Superintendent Sutherland, Office Manager Passage

Chairman Gould called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**BUDGET REVIEW**

Superintendent Sutherland stated that he has reviewed the budget and the budget is in line to where we need to be at this time.

**1509 HARBORWAY DR. – IRRIGATION METER**

Chase Jackson, 1509 Harborway Dr., addressed the committee. He explained that his irrigation meter was installed approximately a year ago, however; the house meter was also registering the irrigation usage. He questioned why the public works inspected the meter and felt that it was the public works department who should have found the problem. He stated that the public works should pay for the meter to be reinstalled properly and he should be given a refund.

Office Manager Passage gave a report regarding when the irrigation meter started and the number of billing cycles that were processed with the house meter registering the irrigation usage. Ten billing cycles will need to be corrected. Office Manager Passage read the city code regarding the requirement of how the meter was to be installed and the inspection requirement. Superintendent Sutherland explained the inspection process. Mayor White recommended that the ten billing cycles be corrected and discussion was held regarding the inspection process. After discussion, the consensus of the committee was to adjust the ten billing cycles and require the homeowner at his expense to have the meter installed according to the city code. Homeowner was advised that he should not use the irrigation meter until it is installed correctly.

**617 MARCUS CT. – IRRIGATION METER**

Office Manager Passage explained that the irrigation meter at 617 Marcus Ct. was also installed where the house meter was also registering the irrigation usage. The number of billings that were affected was two plus the current one which is not billed yet. Superintendent Sutherland stated he has talked with this homeowner and has verified that the meter installation has been

corrected. After discussion, the consensus of the committee was to adjust the three billing cycles.

Mayor White recommended that Superintendent Sutherland look at the code to see if a change to the code is needed to clarify the requirement.

### **HIGH USAGE WAIVER**

Office Manager Passage stated that she had received one high usage waiver request. Cohen Development 308 Plaza Drive. Superintendent Sutherland reviewed the request and stated he met with them and there was a hose bib that was in the meter pit that had failed and the water did not go through the system. Cohen Development is the owner of the building and it was not occupied. Should the committee take the stand that no water was to be used then the bill would be a minimum bill which is \$5.50 for the water/sewer charge. Therefore; \$15.29 would be waived. A discussion was held and the consensus of the committee was to waive the \$15.29.

### **SIDEWALK APPLICATIONS**

Office Manager Passage stated one application was received for the Sidewalk program. Joel Watkins 1012 Beech. City Share of the cost would be \$1,000.00. The consensus of the committee was to present the application for approval at the September 9, 2019 council meeting.

### **MOSQUITO SPRAYING**

Mayor White stated that the city had received information from the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association, Blaine Kurth regarding mosquito spraying.

Mike Contratto, 1138 Cedar addressed the committee. He talked about the chemical that the city is spraying. He stated he had contacted a technician that is an advisor to the American Mosquito Association. He recommended that the city follow the advice of agencies regarding spraying and to not spray unnecessarily. The city should obtain indicators to determine when to spray.

Patrice Espinosa addressed the committee. She asked that the city look at the big picture and do what is best for the environment.

Sandy Pomazal, addressed the committee. She stated that she did not live in the City however; she does support Mike Contratto. She believes it is time to pause and take a look at the whole issue.

Scott Shepler, 624 Elm, addressed the committee. He was concerned as he has notice there are less birds, spiders, bees in his yard. He feels that the city is not doing mosquito abatement effectively.



August 21, 2019

Denise Passage  
Risk Management Coordinator  
City of Chillicothe  
908 North Second Street  
PO Box 145  
Chillicothe, IL 61523-0145

Dear Risk Management Coordinator:

Thank you for your questions regarding spraying to reduce the number of mosquitoes in your city. Recently there has been some questions on your procedures and if it is harmful to continue the practice. While it is true that the chemicals used to treat for mosquitoes are also harmful to invertebrates, such as honey bees and butterflies, measures can be taken to limit this exposure. Some examples include:

- Spraying in the pre-dawn and evening hours when the mosquitoes are active and the bees are back in the hive.
- Not spraying chemicals onto blooming flowers.
- Eliminating areas of standing water from precipitation, clogged gutters or man-made exposures such as air conditioner condensation as well as under faucets or fountains.
- Identifying and coordinating with local bee keepers to limit spraying in areas where they have hives.
- Not spraying in windy conditions.
- Spraying after weather events as opposed to following a regularly scheduled application.
- Conforming to restrictions on product labels.
- Using only certified applicators.
- Announcing when and where spraying operations will take place.

While we do not want to harm pollinators, it is important for the collective health of the community to reduce the number of mosquitoes. Reducing the number of mosquitoes will help to limit harmful viruses that are spread via mosquito bites. Some of the viruses spread by mosquito bites include West Nile, St. Louis encephalitis and Zika. West Nile has caused around 2,000 deaths in America since 1999. Last year there were 176 human cases of West Nile in Illinois.

At this time Chillicothe is in compliance with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, which is the agency responsible for controlling said function. As such, the RMA has no issues with your current practice of spraying for mosquitoes. With that being said, if you feel that you want to change your policies to reflect input from the Illinois Department of Public Health or other recognized entities to help minimize the unintentional harm to pollinators, that is acceptable as well.