



December 1, 2021 Meeting

Chair Rod Vargo called the Zoom Meeting to order. Craig Martin, Bryan McMillan, Beulah Matczak, Pat Turner, Kody Tinnell, Pone Vongpachanh, Tony Ridley, John Van Naarden, Matthew Wirtz, Mike Kiester, Eric Ruppert, Justin Brugger, Brian Robinson, Ben Groeneweg and Frank Suárez attended the December 1, 2020 meeting via ZOOM.

Tony Ridley made a motion, and Pat Turner seconded as the group approved the minutes from the September 2021 meeting.

Presentation: MyWater Online Customer Portal and Meter Replacement – Ben Groeneweg - Ben discussed how the current meters were past their useful life and that the installation process for new meters to every customer was underway. The installation process would take about two years. Ben discussed the installation process using geographic billing cycles and the challenges of having residents set up their installation appointment. Rod Vargo stated that some customers he's spoken with were not happy with the wording on the letters. Pat Turner expressed concern that residents would not set up their appointment from the letter, resulting in disconnects. Ben said follow-up postcards, door hangers, and phone calls were also going to the customers. The MyWater technology helps City Utilities by transmitting the monthly read, rather than physically going to the location, which frees up our staff members for other duties that are part of their current job. For the customer, the new portal will allow customers to monitor water usage for their property 24/7. Once operational, the system will enable customers to set an alert if their water usage is up, indicating a possible leak or running toilet, thus helping customers head off potential high bills.

Presentation: 2022 Budget – Justin Brugger - Justin Brugger discussed City Utilities Financial overview for 2022. Justin discussed the trends over the last three years of the effects of COVID-19 on residential water consumption. The presentation looked at projected revenues of 162.7 million and the investment in 2022 of \$126.2 million for system improvements in water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure.

Presentation: Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District Update – Justin Brugger - Justin explained the Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District (ACRWSD) and what/who its services in the region. ACRWSD is an independent political subdivision – that is not a part of the County or City. It has approximately 3,150 sewer customers and no water customers. Its primary purpose to date has been implementing septic elimination projects. With the sewer acquisition customers would enjoy greater reliability and greater availability to residents due to City Utilities greater resources and infrastructure in place. Customers will also save approximately \$2 million in annual savings, \$50 per month per customer saved. Investments will also encourage economic development in the region because of the acquisition. The acquisition does not require the addition of any new infrastructure, it's already in place. For all existing customers, the economies of scale create downward pressure on rates.

Craig Martin asked if Aqua and the expansion of Aboite and other parts of the SW area are concerned about the facilities handling the amount of sewage that needs to be processed. Matthew Wirtz answered that if there is any other further expansion, conversations will be had on capacity.



Bryan McMillan asked Justin Brugger if City Utilities will continue to reach out to try and draw in new customers in unserved areas for septic elimination. Justin stated that City Utilities would continue to reach out to customers to try and eliminate septic. Craig Martin asked if federal money could help pay for extensions to the sewers in other areas. There is a possibility for such.

Construction Project Updates – Eric Ruppert briefly discussed CU's commitment to 14 miles per year of water main replacement and asked if there were any questions on the 20 projects in progress. Rod Vargo said he appreciated the spreadsheet in advance along with the dollar amount of each investment.

Because of meeting length, Rod suggested holding the Tunnel and related projects update until the March 2022 meeting.

In other business, Brian Robinson shared that the Water Pollution Control Plant treated more than 17 billion gallons of sewage in the first 11 months of 2021, averaging 46-47 million gallons per day.

Rod shared that Dan Wire will have two pontoon boats through the Maumee River Watershed Alliance. In addition, they are working on a river awareness program.

Frank Suárez shared that City Utilities won the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for the Water Pollution Control Plant's methane program to generate power. City Utilities also won a national award for working with restaurants by taking their fats and grease and turning that into power.

Meeting dates for 2022 will be March 2, June 1, September 7, and November 30.
John Van Naarden made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tony Ridley.