

## MINUTES

### COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

January 25, 2010

Mayor D'Epifanio called the Council-Manager Briefing was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Mike Oler, Mitch Rhodus, Marty Judd, Mike Snyder, Tim Abbott, and Terry Senger. Staff present: Mary Hopton, Dave Crouch, Drew Young, Angie Johns, Arthur Pizzano, Dennis Stuckey, Carol Mayhall, Tim Bachman, John Clemmons and Mike Dickey.

#### **Critical Needs Assessment and Council Goal – Utility Infrastructure Report**

Public Utilities Director Dave Crouch stated one of Council's goals is to *"Provide and ensure Fairfield's commitment to environmental sustainability and utility infrastructure that meets the needs of our residents and businesses in the most efficient manner possible"*. He further stated the five goals within that are Continuity of Service, Exceptional Water Quality, Environmental Responsibility, Reduced Energy Consumption and Maintenance of Competitive Rates. Mr. Crouch displayed a photo of the 1957 original water treatment system and discussed the upgrades and expansions that have resulted in what is now a 214 acre utility campus. Mr. Crouch explained the displayed poster which was a rendering put together by GRW Engineers for the 1983 expansion, which included a graph. He further explained in 1981 a study was done that showed if the city went independent and ran its own operation it would save 25 million dollar from 1985-2000. Mr. Crouch stated he believes we have achieved that goal. He discussed how our low rate structure is an Economic Development strategy. He commented for businesses we have great fire flows and sewer system, which makes insurance rates very good. Mr. Crouch stated customer service is provided 100% of the time with someone is at the water plant 24/7 for 365 days/year. He handed out a chart showing the number of surveys returned so far, which is over 50%. He read a few positive comments from the returned surveys. Mr. Crouch handed out a summary chart of the number of water main breaks for 2009. He stated the industry standard from AWWA is 30 main breaks for year per 100 miles of pipe and in 2009 we had 64 main breaks over about 189 miles of pipe, which is within industry standards. He explained the data is being added to GIS to help provide data to engineers for the critical needs assessment. He further discussed the quick repair time for the breaks. Mr. Crouch discussed the strategies to meet the Council Goals. For the first goal of continuity of service, he briefly explained the generator installation at the water plant. He stated the generation equipment at the plant will only run the plant and one well, which will not provide enough water for the entire city. Mr. Crouch explained Well No. 4 has been retrofitted to be able to use a portable generator to help alleviate this problem. He discussed as part of Emergency Operation Day on September 14, 2009 the entire water system on Groh Lane ran on emergency power. He commented in 2009 a generator was designed for the Muskopf Pump Station and a contractor will begin this week. He commented this is critical infrastructure because with Muskopf, water cannot be transferred to the other tank and over to Mack. He stated that one station serves 60% of our community. Mr. Crouch stated Drew Young and his staff has been able to equip every sanitary sewage lift station with a backup generator, which is beneficial from a health perspective. He further explained if these stations are running on generators if a city-wide emergency is declared six staff members will be able to assist in other areas, rather than manually pumping at the stations. Mr. Crouch commented on the young age of our infrastructure. He briefly discussed the interconnections with Cincinnati and Hamilton that were tested on Emergency Operation Day. He commented that he is exploring expanding interconnections for Miller's Run and with Butler County near Mulhauser Road. He discussed his focus on succession planning for his department. Mr. Crouch discussed the strategies to meet exceptional drinking water quality including the consumer confidence report (CCR). He stated there are always unregulated and potential contaminates on the horizon and it could be costly to add pretreatment or a treatment process to your plant to remove these contaminates. Mr. Crouch discussed a stage two disinfection rule that we will have to comply with by 2013. He discussed the positive inspection on Friday with the Ohio EPA in which the City received an A+. He further discussed the cost savings by using our GIS overlay in the creation of a new hydraulic model computerized for our water system. Mr. Crouch stated we meet our EPA permits 100% of the time. He discussed inflow and infiltration. He briefly discussed the Water In Basement (WIB) that has to be reported to the EPA each year as well as any sanitary sewer overflows. He commented this information also has to be sent to the Health Department. Mr. Crouch briefly discussed new standards that may be coming out to mandate biological nutrient removal. He explained the bio-solids strategies and the goal to reach Class A level from our current Class B level. Mr. Crouch explained that there is not a generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and discussed what will happen in the event of a catastrophic power outage. He stated a project is designed to replace the motor control center at the plant which does include a generator and is on the CIP. He handed out graphs demonstrating their energy usage. He discussed the optimization of operations. He stated with the generators at Water, the department will try to take advantage of Duke Energy incentives by running our generators starting this summer during peak times. Mr. Crouch discussed our competitive rates and explained if rate increases are needed it would be small incremental steps over years. He discussed every project was reviewed and we did not received stimulus funding for projects submitted. He explained the data being used to determine when it will be necessary to build projects. He mentioned piping configuration problems at the Route 4 Pump Station and he briefly described the new hydraulic model which is complete. He stated we

have 189.7 miles of pipe and 53% is the industry preferred type. He discussed a history meeting in which institutional knowledge which will be beneficial in critical needs assessment. He discussed the long term plan including a total of 11 water projects to review, distribution system and main break analysis, asset management and water system value, developing infrastructure replacement schedule, exceptional drinking water quality goal, and a comprehensive rate study. Mr. Young discussed the regular testing of generators at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Crouch discussed the testing of the Water generators. Council and staff briefly discussed a map displayed by Mr. Crouch that displayed the age of the pipe throughout the city. Councilmember Abbott asked what one to two critical items are needed to make the system better. Mr. Crouch responded continuity of service with the installation of generators throughout the water system.

Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns  
Clerk of Council