

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**June 13, 2019**  
**Auditorium**

**Present:** Councilmembers Rader & Bullock

**Also Present:** Dave Baas, Katelyn Milius, Michelle Nochta, Mayor Summers, Mike Foley of Cuyahoga County Office on Sustainability and staff, Mike Wise of McDonald Hopkins

**Call to Order:** 3:03 p.m.

The Committee approved the minutes from its June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Communication from Councilmembers Rader, George, and Bullock regarding solar energy for the City.**

Mike Wise of McDonald Hopkins gave a presentation on the provision of solar energy for the City of Lakewood. McDonald Hopkins is representing Enerlogic Solar as its client. The County put out an RFP to outfit three of its buildings with solar energy technology and Enerlogic responded. The County's partnership with Enerlogic allows Lakewood to obtain the same price for solar energy as the County does. Enerlogic plans on offering the same pricing to non-profit organizations, as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> party ownership. The County program will be offered through the end of 2020. The tax benefits of the energy program expire on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Mr. Wise reviewed a project completed by Enerlogic in Brooklyn that involved virtual net meters wired into the power grid. This project involved a power purchase agreement. He also provided a description of the cooperative energy purchase program, while also focusing on onsite solar panels for Lakewood. He reviewed the city's current energy costs, explaining how volume and load factor into the price of the energy and the infrastructure needed. He added that a ground mounted system is less expensive than a rooftop one.

There was discussion among members of the committee regarding instances where the power grid might go down. A battery back up was suggested, but the price of it may be prohibitive.

Members and guests discussed the location and placement of solar panels. The City would not make money off of panels placed at the waste water treatment plant, but would over time at other city buildings. It was noted that Winterhurst's tenant pays for its own power and that the City would have to renegotiate its lease in order to place the panels on the roof. Roof conditions would need to be examined at the site prior to placement. It was noted that the Streets Department garage makes the most sense for the placement of solar panels. The roof was very recently replaced and its location could allow the structure to produce more power than it currently requires. Members discussed possibly connecting the project to City Hall in order to divert excess power created by the garage and to not lose out on an energy credit. It was noted that any excess power goes back to the grid and that the City gets a reduced credit.

In summary, there would be a 14% savings through solar energy panel placement on the Streets Department garage and that the planned ground system for the waste water treatment plant is not likely viable. Members discussed whether this project could start this year. The system is warranted for 20 years but should be productive for 30-40 years. Mike Wise is to schedule a call with Director Beno in the future on this topic.

**Follow up discussion regarding Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grants.**

Discussion on the spending of NOPEC grant funds continued among members. The Mayor advocated moving forward with the installment of LED streetlights on Clifton, Lake, and Franklin, which will provide a 4 year payback. LED street lights have already been installed on all of Detroit and Madison Ave. The difference in the amount and quality of the light is negligible and not very noticeable to residents.

**ORDINANCE 13-19 - AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, amending Chapter 906, Use of Public Ways for Small Cell Wireless Facilities and Wireless Support Structures, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lakewood in order to regulate small cell wireless facilities located in the right-of-way.**

Director Beno stated that the proposed changes from last July are updates from the FCC of what needed to be added to small cell ordinances that were adopted by municipalities. There are timing changes on application review depending on the size of a tower and the installation type.

Director Butler noted that some municipalities are challenging this measure in court. The order became enforceable in January and there hasn't been enough time for any of the litigation to be resolved. He noted that nothing has yet happened to overturn the FCC ruling and that the federal government has the ultimate jurisdiction in this matter. The measure restricts states and municipalities from regulation beyond their authority and is a signal that the FCC is bowing to the telecommunications industry. Lakewood has to abide unless the courts say otherwise.

It was noted that the FCC passed rules that conflict with the state code. The City's current code is modeled off the state code. The City is abiding by the current regulations in practice, making the timing and passage of this legislation not crucial. The FCC order which resulted in these changes to the code was from January 2019. The state code was revised in spring 2018.

Councilman Rader moved to recommend adoption of Ordinance 13-19, which was seconded by Councilman Bullock. All in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.