

**BUILDING & BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE MINUTES
MAY 20, 2014**

The Building & Building Codes Committee meeting was held on May 20, 2014, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair John Nickell, Vice Chair Dan Kasaris, Larry Antoskiewicz; Council: Dan Langshaw, Paul Marnecheck, Steve Muller, Gary Petrusky, Administration: Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, Finance Director Eric Dean, Building Commissioner Dan Kulchytsky, Wastewater Supt. Tim Tigue; Other: Don Harris.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Antoskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Nickell to **approve the April 15, 2014 and April 22, 2014 minutes** as received. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **City Hall update/project**

Mr. Kulchytsky reported that the project is moving forward and we will start to see more construction activity occurring at the site.

2. **Charity Donation Drop Boxes**

Mr. Nickell reported that this item will be placed on hold for now. He said that Assistant Law Director Donna Vozar came across some federal regulation issues that could complicate or invalidate whatever we are proposing. Further review will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **May Storm Update**

Mr. Tigue said that normally we run one 7 million gallons/day pump. The day of the storm we had to run all four pumps just to keep up and it still wasn't draining the flow that was coming in. Mr. Tigue said we have had storms like this before. As long as it is a consistent, steady rain, our systems can handle it, just like they did with Super storm Sandy. That storm resulted in 8 inches of rain over 4 days and he did not receive one sanitary sewer backup complaint during that event. However, with this storm we had 3 inches in an hour and a half. Obviously the regional storm water system could not move the water out fast enough. The rivers, streams, creeks and eventually the local storm water systems all rose resulting in overland flooding. He said that this is the worst case scenario from a wastewater standpoint because when there is overland flooding, you will have a high risk of sanitary sewer backup and there is nothing that the system can do to stop it. He said they received 50+ sanitary sewer calls but he estimates there were at least 50 more who didn't call. Mr. Kasaris asked if the calls were concentrated to a certain area. Mr. Tigue said that most of the calls were from north of the Turnpike; Wards 1, 2, 3, 4. He said there were a few calls from Ward 5. A, B, and C districts were all involved. District D did not have any problems. He said that to his knowledge no one had a continuing sanitary sewer backup after the waters all receded. Mr. Tigue said that he has information on options that he can give the residents to help them protect their homes. Some are inexpensive with risks; some are very expensive and still have risks. He said that he put some information together that will help the residents to get an idea of what to do. Mr. Kasaris asked if fixing some of the cross connections over the years has helped. Mr. Tigue said he believes it has, but the homes that are going to have repeat problems are the ones who are at the lowest level. He said areas where the cross connections have been corrected such as Patricia/Gardenside still experience some backups due to overland flooding. Mr. Langshaw asked Mr. Tigue to take a second look at those properties that have been told to repair their I&I problems but have not complied to see if these are possibly a source of some of the problems with this last storm. Mr. Tigue said he would do this. Mr. Tigue said between all of the districts, there are 9,500-9,700 accounts and we received only 50 calls, however he understands that this low percentage means nothing to those who had back up. He said

they will continue with the I&I dye testing. Mr. Nickell said that some of the residents on Cedarwood have basements, but their wash rooms are on the first floor and they have a least one drain for air conditioners. He asked where should that drain go, sanitary or storm. Mr. Kulchytsky said these should be tied into the sanitary. Mr. Nickell thinks that a lot of them are going to the storm sewer or the footer because when the street was full they flooded. Mr. Kulchytsky said that the current code requirements are that the garage floor drains and floor drains within the house are to be connected to the sanitary sewer. Mr. Nickell said that he is certain that some of these floor drains are going into the storm sewers. Mr. Langshaw asked if there were any additional enforcements that the Building Commissioner could utilize to assist in these types of stormwater issues, such as ditches. Mr. Kulchytsky said that ditches are an engineering item, but we do have preventive maintenance items such as blocked ditches that we can cite for. Regarding the building code we cannot exceed what the Ohio Residential Building Code mandates. We cannot create additional enforcement items that don't exist on the books. Mr. Nickell asked for a summary from Mr. Cinquepalmi on what is being done by the Service Department. Mr. Cinquepalmi agreed with what Mr. Tigue said earlier. Most of the sewers, especially in the developments, were actually clean the next day. He said that a sewer line that was designed to handle 1,000 gallons of water per minute suddenly has 5,000 gallons. Once it has the first 1,000 gallons, it's full; the other 4,000 gallons run over the ground and floods everything in its path. He said most flooding receded and cleared itself on its own. Unfortunately it left hundreds, if not thousands, of tons of silt and shale taken from the higher ground. He said that this brings us back to the same condition we had before we started cleaning these ditches 6 years ago. We need to start all over for this system to function. He said that he knows Council has seen this in their wards and he said the problem is city wide. Mr. Nickell said that Council should fill out their requests for service and submit them, and the Service Department will prioritize them. Mr. Cinquepalmi said that they are working around the clock and are receiving help from the county and the sewer district. Mr. Cinquepalmi said he would send Council the lists of work items for their wards so that Council can be sure that all of their problems have been reported. Mr. Kasaris asked if we are still working overtime. Mr. Cinquepalmi said yes, we ask every day if the employees want to stay over. A lot of them are burned out at this stage. He said if it stays dry they should be able to make some progress. Mr. Kasaris asked what type of work is being done on overtime. Mr. Cinquepalmi said it depends on the amount of employees. Three people equal one crew. He said we will have the vac truck out and the other crews would be restoring and cleaning. Mr. Langshaw thanked Mr. Cinquepalmi and the Mayor for working it out with Rumpke to pick up trash every day for the whole city so that those residents who need to put damaged furniture, etc. out on the curb can have it picked up the same day rather than having to wait for their regular trash pickup day.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Antoskiewicz, **to adjourn the meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.