

MINUTES
WORKING SESSION
CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE CIVIC COMPLEX
401 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS

June 1, 2021

The Honorable John P. Kahl Mayor of the City of East Peoria called the Working Session of the City Council of the City of East Peoria, Illinois to order at 5:15 P.M. with the meeting having been properly noticed. The City Clerk certifies that notice of the meeting was duly served upon Council Members via email on Friday, May 28, 2021, at approximately 2:49 p.m.

Upon the roll being called the following answered present: Mayor John P. Kahl, Commissioners Daniel S. Decker, Mark E. Hill, and Seth D. Mingus.
Absent: Michael L. Sutherland.

Mayor Kahl explained that the City Council is meeting for a Working Session and that no formal business will be conducted by the City Council at the meeting. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to have a Working Session regarding the Drainage and Storm Water Control. He turned the discussion over to Commissioner Decker. Commissioner Decker explained that it is not that easy to control water and drainage due to the City's topography that consists of hills and valleys. He commented on receiving complaints on water drainage and explained that sometimes it is the responsibility of the city and sometimes it is not. Also, if something is the responsibility of the City, it doesn't mean the City can just rush out and fix it. The City must work within a budget, and there are limited monies to get projects done that are the responsibility of the City.

He turned the presentation over to Patrick Meyer, engineer with Patrick Meyer and Associates. Engineer Meyer explained that there have been issues over the years that he has worked with the City. He explained the process when receiving complaints. He explained that once a complaint is received an investigation is conducted to determine responsibility. If it is the responsibility of the City, the issues are ranked and staff availability and costs are considered.

Right now, there are roughly \$7,000,000 million worth of noted drainage issues. He has divided issues into three categories: (1) Storm Sewer Outfalls; (2) Metal Pipes (they were predominately used in 1970s and 1980s and are now deteriorating); and (3) Aging or Non-Existent System. Tonight's discussion does not include bridges and things getting washed away and normal wear and tear that must be taken care of.

The City has over 200 storm sewer outfalls. The outfalls typically go into the ravines. A deteriorated outfall will likely cost at least \$50,000 and can cost upwards of over \$200,000. He presented a picture of a home with a pipe that had eroded. There were pipes that had holes and eroded the soil underneath. Many times, pipes do not get extended to the bottom of the ravine. Also, individuals may place grass clippings in the ravine, which only holds water and does not allow anything to grow or any roots to develop and help prevent erosion. Another picture was shown of a ravine off Highview Road where there were several holes from groundhogs.

Another picture was shown that had a concrete mat to form to the sides of the ditch. However, over time, water will find its way underneath the mat and move the ditch away from where it is supposed to be running water. Another issue is when items find their way into the ravines and come down the ravines. He showed a picture of a log that got into the ravine and made its way into a pipe.

Another issue is not only large things, but small things as well will build up and make an impact. Unauthorized dumping is an issue with people dumping things such as landscaping blocks, buckets, tree limbs, grass clippings etc. that fill up the ravine. Dumping those items does not help with drainage and causes problems.

The second category or issue is Metal pipes that are used, and it is estimated that the city has at least five miles of metal pipe. The metal pipes are going bad and sink holes can develop. Engineer Meyer explained that metal pipes tend to rust out the bottom and cause water to drop into the hole underneath the pipe. There are two options to fix issues that include (1) digging up and replacing the pipe or (2) sliplining pipes. At some point, some pipes are no longer eligible for sliplining. Additionally, sometimes joints separate and water gets in between and lets dirt and other things into the pipe.

The third category is an aging or non-existent system. Mortar between bricks can breakdown and joints in concrete pipe can also be an issue. Flooding due to no apparent drainage system is an issue. By Pillsbury Lane water pools, and the costs to fix this item is estimated at several hundred thousand dollars. Sump Pumps are also an issue in the summer and winter. Normally, there are no cheap fixes for sump pumps and normally another 8 inch pipe next to the storm sewer pipe is needed. As water sits on pavement, it tends to saturate it and breaks up the roadway prematurely. Richland Area Culverts and Drainage System is separately an issue. Drainage culverts are in need of fixing and the structures themselves have issues. Debris buildup is an issue and needs to constantly be dealt with.

Mayor Kahl asked for any comments/questions from the City Council.

Commissioner Decker explained that the City has \$50,000 to \$80,000 per year in just maintaining the storm sewers and takes care of bridges. It is generally maintenance. If someone sees exposed pipe or other issues, it is best that the City knows about issues that are its responsibility early so that the issue might be fixed when the fix is usually less expensive. He asked that individuals be careful on their own property, because it may cause issues with other properties. An issue is how the City pays for these fixes. He explained that he does not have a great suggestion. He explained that Morton formed a committee of people throughout the community that would look at the issues and decide what they believe are ways to fix it. He explained that any money needed to fix drainage or storm water issues must be taken from other items.

Mayor Kahl expressed appreciation for bringing this information forward and educating the citizens and the City Council. The topography has always created issues and most of the time the issues are on private property. People need to maintain and ensure they are taking care of their property to ensure that no issues are created on other properties.

Commissioner Mingus asked if these issues are more common due to the aging infrastructure. Superintendent of Streets, Ric Semonski explained that he believes it is a combination of heavier rain events that we get more frequently and aging pipes and other infrastructure. Commissioner Decker feels that he is hearing more complaints recently. However, there is no funding to deal with all of the issues. Commissioner Mingus asked about City pipe being broken on private property. Superintendent Semonski explained that it best for individuals to contact the City so that the City can investigate.

Commissioner Hill asked about responsibility and explained that just because there is erosion does not mean that it is the City's responsibility. He would like to see the drainage projects to be put in the Capital Budget and not the in maintenance budget. There is a priority list for these drainage issues.

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Mayor Kahl asked for any comments from the audience. There was no response.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Hill; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn the meeting.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, and Mingus and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:53 P.M.

/s/ Morgan R. Cadwalader_____

Morgan R. Cadwalader, City Clerk