

CITY OF CLYDE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
January 28, 2025

The regularly scheduled work session of Clyde City Council was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Clyde City Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Doug McCauley
Council Member Greg McMaster
Council Member Terri Meek
Council Member Chris Shay
City Manager Justin LaBenne (Not voting)
Clerk of Council Janet Dickman (Not voting)
Deputy Clerk Jackie Hoppe (Not voting)
Finance Director Frank Weasner (Not voting)

Absent/

Excused: Vice Mayor Scott Black
Solicitor Zachary Selvey (Not voting)

Visitors:

Visitors signing in can be referenced in the record book supplement.

The purpose of this work session is for discussion of City Sewer Rates, the current financial status of the sewer fund, and future financial status.

John Courtney with Courtney & Associates reviewed a 2024 Sewer Rate Analysis (a copy is available in the Record Book Supplement). Review of sewer rates began about a year and a half ago.

Data, including revenue requirements and sewer sales are a part of this analysis. Historical and projected growth are evaluated.

Expenses such as but not limited to capital improvements (almost \$30 mil in WWTP improvements), debt service and charge backs are considered.

By looking at the revenue at current rates and the revenue requirement per year, a determination of rate adjustment increase or decrease can be found.

Mayor McCauley questioned if any grants would be available for the upgrades (grant availability is unknown). He questioned how our rates compare to other municipalities (Clyde is probably lower than most, even with a 20% increase).

Mr. Shay questioned the last time the rates were increased (2016).

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The proposed rate adjustment is for a phase-in over two steps in 2025 and 2026 by 10%, across the board. They will prepare cost comparisons for the average household.

Derek Knieriemen, Mayor of Green Springs, questioned if the Green Springs rate would increase by the same amount (yes, that is the proposed recommendation).

Mayor McCauley referenced our aging WWTP facility, and the fact that the current facility is at 80% capacity. He would like to see incremental increases.

Mr. Shay commented on the unfortunate timing of an increase now, in light of the recent property tax increase by the county.

Mr. Biggs noted the upgrades may result in fewer WWTP personnel being needed, which could reduce their department budget expenses.

Ms. Meek noted any grant or loan application would look at our current rates and if our rates are not competitive, the grant or loan would be rejected due to their perceived observation that we are not being aggressive enough to manage our fund.

Mayor McCauley questioned if there is a minimum charge for sewer (yes).

When do expenses for a current loan fall off (it started in 2015, so it will go on for a while).

Mr. Biggs noted there will be additional costs in the future, out to Phase 4 of the upgrades.

Mayor Knieriemen questioned if Green Springs could be considered an outlier, with different consideration given to an increase. Green Springs residents pay a significantly higher amount than Clyde residents, due to additional costs added to their monthly bill needed to maintain the Green Springs infrastructure. Green Springs is also conducting an analysis, and they are projected to be in the negative in four years. The current water agreement between Clyde and Green Springs was signed in 2002 and expired in 2022.

Mayor McCauley questioned if we should look at a three-year plan instead of a two-year plan (Mr. Biggs agrees with this, for a 10% increase for each of the three years). The discussions could be brought back in 2026, after Phase 1 of the upgrades is wrapped up.

Mayor McCauley questioned the plan for educating community members about an increase (an insert could be included with the customer bills, showing an example of how the increase will calculate and that it will only affect this utility).

Mayor Knieriemen noted Green Springs is looking at other revenue sources, noting they have not increased their 1% income tax since 1986. The Village is too small to be able to meet the requirements necessary to take advantage of grants.

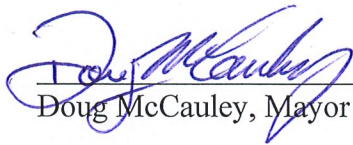
Mayor McCauley expressed sensitivity to residents who are on a fixed income.

Mayor McCauley commended the past Administration and Council of the City of Clyde for keeping our debt ratio low.

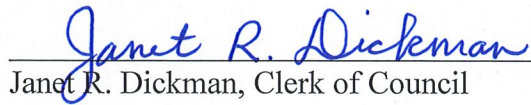
Mayor McCauley assured Mayor Knieriemen they will consider his request to look at the impact to Green Springs residents.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor McCauley announced the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



Doug McCauley, Mayor



Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council

CITY OF CLYDE
COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 Work Session

Visitors – PLEASE SIGN IN:

1. Derek Kaeriemer Mayor Green Springs
2. John BIGGS WWTP CITY OF CLYDE
3. Scott DWieging WWTP Coetney & Associates
4. John Courtney " " "
5. Gary Smith
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