

**CITY OF NEWARK  
DELAWARE  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**September 30, 2013**

Those present at 7:00 PM:

Deputy Mayor Clifton presiding  
Council Members Chapman, Hadden, Markham, Morehead, Tuttle  
City Secretary Renee Bensley  
City Manager Carol Houck  
Deputy City Manager Andrew Haines  
Finance Director Lou Vitola  
Public Works & Water Resources Director Roy Simonson  
Assistant Public Works & Water Resources Director Tom Coleman  
Public Works & Water Resources Field Superintendent Tim Filasky  
Brian Miller, Pennoni Associates

The documents provided to Council to prepare for the workshop were used in a PowerPoint presentation. (Note: The PowerPoint presentation is on file in the City Secretary's office.)

**1. Overview of Storm Sewer Investigation and Planning**

Ms. Houck gave an introduction to the workshop, which spoke of the issues that the City faced in the spring and summer regarding storms which were the reason for this workshop. Ms. Houck introduced Brian Miller of Pennoni Associates who reviewed the findings of the investigation.

**2. Areas of Concern**

Mr. Miller reviewed the initial areas of concern that were investigated, as well as the additional areas of concern that were reviewed by City staff. Areas that were investigated included:

- East Main Street & Haines Street
- Kells Avenue
- Arbour Drive
- Swarthmore Road, Devon Place
- Barksdale Road, Sue Lane, Julie Lane
- Paper Mill Road Culvert
- Timberline Culvert

**3. Action Items**

Mr. Simonson reviewed the action items that were taking place, which included:

- Immediate Action Items
  - Active Maintenance in All Areas – storm pipe flushing, overgrowth removal, structure/flow channel repairs, frame/cover/grate repairs, asking property owners to take an active role to keep system functioning properly.
  - Julie Lane Culvert – removing upstream grate, maintaining existing vegetation upstream.
  - Casho Mill Road Culvert – DeIDOT project to correct pipe protrusion.
  - Arbour Drive – modification of pipe connection protruding into manhole, installing additional manhole to realign storm sewer.
- Short Term Action Items
  - East Main Street – analyze drainage area upstream of inlet 366 to determine adequate pipe sizing, address pipe size reduction at manhole 366 by replacing the existing pipes and modifying the pipes connecting to manhole 76 and inlet 367.
  - Julie Lane/LeRoy Hill Ball Field – soil remediation and berm installation as part of Parks Department project, install new culvert end protection.

- Long Term Action Items
  - East Main Street – remove or relocate utility crossings where possible or install access points at the crossings to enable maintenance for removal of debris; prepare drainage area model to determine system capacity; develop construction project to address capacity problems and replacement of deteriorated pipe if necessary; consider modifications to City regulations regarding storm sewers.
  - Haines Street – relocate utility pipe crossings where possible or install access points at the crossings to enable maintenance for removal of debris; review UD detention basin capacity; prepare drainage area model to determine system capacity; develop construction project to address capacity problems and replacement of deteriorated pipe if necessary; consider modifications to City regulation regarding storm sewers; relocate sanitary sewer pipe to clear channel.
  - Kells Avenue & Swarthmore Road, Devon Place – prepare drainage area model to determine system capacity; develop construction project to address capacity problems and replacement of deteriorated pipe if necessary; consider modifications to City regulation regarding storm sewers.
  - Arbour Drive – modify sewer alignment at manhole 215 to eliminate acute flow angle; investigate the addition of new pipes and inlets along downslope of Arbour Drive to collect gutter flow.
  - Julie Lane Culvert & Paper Mill Road Culvert – prepare drainage area model to determine system capacity; develop construction project to address capacity problems and replacement of deteriorated pipe if necessary.
  - Timberline Culvert – prepare drainage area model to determine system capacity; develop construction project for box culvert replacement.

#### **4. Budget and Financial Discussion**

Mr. Vitola reviewed the costs associated with the projects discussed, which totaled almost \$7 million. This work would address less than 25% of the City's drainage system. City staff is recommending an alternative funding source be identified in order to increase future spending to meet the demands of a system-wide improvement.

Mr. Vitola presented two funding options: a storm sewer fee added to existing water and sewer bills and a property tax increase. Staff is recommending the storm sewer fee due to cost effectiveness, ease of implementation, fairness, and simplicity.

Following the presentation Council and staff discussed various options for storm sewer improvement funding. Mr. Simonson and Mr. Vitola stated a charter amendment to allow a threshold under which bond debt could be taken on by the City without a referendum would be helpful and give the City options for matching funds for projects.

Staff was asked to prepare a greater variety of financing options for Council's consideration. Council stressed wanting to see all possible options before considering a fee or tax increase. While their opinions varied regarding funding, the general consensus was that the stormwater system issues were a serious concern and needed to be addressed. Council also emphasized its desire to see any funds raised for stormwater be kept in a separate dedicated fund to be used only for those projects.

Sherry Hoffman, District 4, asked to make a comment. Council suspended the rules and opened the floor to the public. Ms. Hoffman asked if Beverly Road and Dallas Avenue were being considered. Mr. Filasky responded that it was part of the storm sewer issue as a whole and has been identified as an area that will need attention.

**Meeting adjourned. Time 9:12 p.m.**

Renee K. Bensley  
City Secretary