

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
APRIL 21, 2003**

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Tom Grossmann, Charlene Pelfrey, Dick Staten, Victor Kidd, Peter Beck, and John McCurley. Jim Fox joined the meeting during the discussion of the downtown area.

DOWNTOWN

A general discussion took place among Councilmembers regarding the next step to take in the revitalization of the downtown area. Councilmember Staten suggested a continuation of the contract with LSR Consultants on a month-to-month basis until the City is ready to hire a Downtown Coordinator. He said he has been contacted by some downtown business owners who desire to expand their business but are waiting until the City makes a decision on this matter. Councilmember Grossmann stated it was his understanding the traffic issues would have to be addressed before we could really move forward on the revitalization. Councilmember Kidd stated funds are available to projects such as this if a Downtown Coordinator is in place. It was decided legislation would be presented to Council at the next meeting to extend LSR's contract for up to 6 months on a month to month basis. Scot Lahrmer was directed to prepare a report on how an 80 foot right-of-way will affect the downtown area. It was collectively decided a job description must be prepared for the Downtown Coordinator position and the responsibilities must be prioritized. A committee from Council including Councilmember Pelfrey, Councilmember Staten and Mayor McCurley will meet with Linda Fitzgerald to clarify Council's desires.

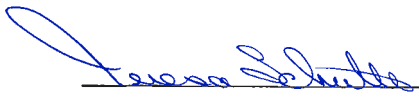
SEWER BILLING CHANGES

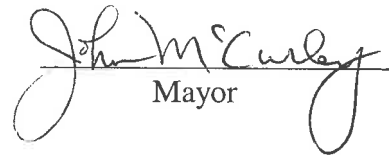
Scot Lahrmer explained the contents of the handout Council received. Ernie Stickler stated the current system is at a critical point. He stated there were only 8 days in March that the system was not over the design flow amount. Vice Mayor Fox reported the Utility Committee recommends the base summer usage be calculated on a not to exceed amount of 125% of the highest monthly of the other seven months of the year. This includes the November through May billing periods. Vice Mayor Fox stated the impact on revenue is projected to be in the neighborhood of 9-12% reduction. The committee is requesting a rate increase of 9% immediately to attempt to make the effects of the rate changes revenue neutral. He added if there is not a three-month history of usage available the customer will not be billed in excess of 9000 gallons for sewer usage. A general discussion took place among Councilmembers which included discussions on the need to replace the existing plant, debt service payments, increased tap in fees, no increase for commercial customers and future handling of water charges for filling swimming pools. Ernie Stickler stated due to new storm water regulations, pool water containing chemicals may have to be sent down the sewer for treatment. Connie Roesch

with the Greater Cincinnati Water Works addressed the billing issues and stated they can handle a change if implemented immediately. She strongly urged the City to communicate the changes to residents. It was also mentioned a 10% increase in user fees and tap in fees will be in effect in January. This is part of a previously approved Ordinance that increased rates and fees two or three years ago. Council agreed to legislation being presented at the next Council meeting which calls for a 9% increase in residential sewer rates and a not to exceed amount of 125% of the highest month of the seven months of the year. This reflects usage of the October through April period.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Pelfrey, seconded by Councilmember Kidd. VOTE: ALL YEAS
TIME: 8:30 p.m


Clerk of Council


Mayor