

Utilities Committee Meeting
February 23, 2016

Present: Committee Members Clausen and Scott; Council Member Larmore; Mayor Hazel; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Auditor Strawn; Law Director Moore; Public Works Supt. Wolfe; Public Works Assistant Supt. Guingrich; and Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard.

Committee member Clausen called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

Director Hitchcock reported the current plumbing codes are out of date. Administration would like to scrap the old Ordinance and start over with new regulations.

The current code requires plumbing tests, but ORC 715.27 (C) does not allow this. The new code would require plumbing contractors working in the City to hold a State plumbing license. CM Larmore explained the State plumbing licensing process.

Currently, plumbers are required to obtain a \$2,000 bond and pay a \$10.00 annual fee. The bond complicates things, therefore Administration is proposing to do away with the requirement. Instead the plumbers would pay an annual registration fee of \$100. Mayor Hazel stated his only concern is what the \$100 fee is used for. It could make it more attractive for plumbers to register with the City if the fee is lower. Director Wolfe stated he is concerned lowering the registration fee would bring plumbers from out of Celina, because the registration fee is low. Committee members Clausen and Scott both recommended the registration fee be set at \$75.00.

Director Hitchcock explained the next concern is what the residents are allowed to do at their own house. The Ohio Plumbing code does not require homeowners to obtain a license or permit to do minor maintenance and repairs. But, they do need a license to replace their entire house plumbing.

Currently, the City goes inside the homes to inspect plumbing. Administration would like to do away with this inspection. If the contractor makes a mistake, this will take the liability off the City. From the house to the main will still be inspected by City personnel. Inspection fees are also being eliminated.

The permit expires after six months currently. This will be done away with. The sign for the plumbing permit was to be displayed at the project, which will also be done away with. CM Larmore recommended the copy of the State License certificate be displayed.

CM Scott recommended the minor changes be incorporated into a new Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen.

CM Clausen adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council