

City of Bay Village

Council Minutes, Committee Session
Dwight A. Clark, President of Council, presiding
Council Chambers.

August 24, 2023
8:00 a.m.

Dwight A. Clark, President of Council, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Dwight A. Clark, President of Council.
David L. Tadych, Vice President of Council, Councilman, Ward 1.
Lydia DeGeorge, Councilwoman, Ward 2.
Michael Greco, Councilman, Ward 3.
Peter J. Winzig, Councilman, Ward 4.
Thomas J. Kelly, Council-at-large.
Sara Byrnes Maier, Council-at-large.
Mayor Koomar.

Also Present: Law Director Barbour, Finance Director Mahoney, Police Chief Gillespie, Fire Chief Lyons, City Engineer Bierut, Recreation Director Enovitch, Human Resource Director Demaline, Urban Forestry Manager Robinson, Clerk of Council Kemper, Mr. Scot Prebles, Superintendent of Schools, Bay Village City School District, Aaron Ereditario, Human Resources and Director of Business Operations, Bay Village City School District.

AUDIENCE

Dan Rettig, 31240 Marvis, Dr. Richard Nelson, 31042 Huntington Woods Parkway, Nathan and Kaitlin Hoffman, 28900 Osborn Rd., Ariadni Dagiasis, 31036 Huntington Woods Parkway.

Zoom participants: Diane Puntel, William JP Toler, Gary Sharp, Scoot Saccany, Mark Gamble, Steve Wank, Jenn Crane, Anita, Al Paulus, Krysten, Kari Eckel, Laura Liatti, Alex Nelson, Teresa Frank, Katemedve, Aaron, Sarah Sweeney, Matthew Yourkvitch, Amber McEwen, Liese, Al Paulus, Morgan, Linda Moss, Mike Smith, Tom Cucuzza, Tyson Bodager, Mark Chernisky, Anne-Frances Zaborniak, Mei, Tracy S., Mark Von Duhn, Barb, B. Geiselman, Amy, Daniel Sweeney, Matthew Moran, J. Cocita, Matt Nocella, Matthew Moran, Alan Doane, Elizabeth Sweeney Milburn, Don Jolley, Joe Waldron, Colleen Kascak, P.J. Flanagan, Bruner, Brooke, Susan Hale, Stephanie Sutman, Lori, Bob Wilson, Chrissy, Cappi Mercer, Barb, Chuck, Joanna, Kelly, Lauren Jolley, Debra Jesionowski, Kate Drachamn, Bobem, Mindy Herman, Jan, Lisa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Koomar announced the reappointment of Kendra Davitt to the City Planning Commission for a 5-year term expiring August 13, 2028. Law Director Barbour stated that Ms. Davitt has been a very good addition to the Planning Commission. Ms. Davitt's graduate degree and experience in public policy has been very useful. Mr. Winzig added that Ms. Davitt does a very nice job and if there are legal questions she is able to provide good input to the commission.

Mayor Koomar introduced Mr. David Robinson, the new Urban Forestry Manager for the City of Bay Village.

Mr. Robinson stated that he has been planting trees for about 25 years after study in Rural Management in the UK, and a year specializing in Arboriculture, taking care of the street trees in London. He came to Cleveland in 2016 and moved into the field of Municipal Arboriculture, spending the last six to seven years taking care of Cleveland's trees. Mr. Robinson expressed hope that the forest in Bay Village will be tamed and problem areas will be addressed.

Mayor Koomar will provide Mr. Robinson's contact information to City Council.

Ms. DeGeorge asked if there is a job description for the position of Urban Forestry Manager that can be shared with City Council. Mayor Koomar responded affirmatively.

Mr. Robinson stated that an issue with a fallen tree on Aberdeen was addressed on August 23. There was a wire down and the area should be cleared by lunchtime today.

Mr. Winzig stated that it would be helpful for Council when there is an incident like that they could go to the website or somewhere to find out that there has been a tree incident and it is being addressed.

Mr. Robinson pledged cooperation and information sharing with City Council. Mr. Clark welcomed Mr. David Robinson to the City of Bay Village, and noted that it would be great to see his assessment of the City of Bay Village tree canopy once he is settled into his position.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Scot Prebles, Superintendent of Schools,
Aaron Ereditario, Human Resources and Director of Operations
Bay Village City School District**

President of Council Clark welcomed Mr. Prebles and Mr. Ereditario, inviting them to address Council and the administration.

Mr. Scot Prebles stated that he is proud to be the Superintendent of Bay Village City Schools and a resident of Bay Village. Mr. Prebles expressed gratitude for the relationship with city officials and the desire to add value to the community. Mr. Prebles advised that Mayor Koomar and he had a discussion about Bay High School and the issue of traffic, safety, and parking at the high school. Mr. Prebles introduced Aaron Ereditario, Human Resources, and Director of Business Operations.

Mr. Ereditario advised that there is no bussing of Bay High School students, with two exceptions. They do, by law, provide transportation to students with special needs that qualify for bussing. The other exception is a collaborative agreement with Rocky River and Westlake Schools in which they transport small groups of students from all three schools to the career technical school in Lakewood. Bay High School historically has had parking spaces available for students at the start of the year. As students get their license over the course of the year, the spaces fill up with sophomore drivers sometime in the late winter or early spring. Presently, there are 722 students at Bay High, which is 55 less students than the previous year. There was a

substantial graduating class of 220 students and an incoming freshman class of 175 students. The previous school year, post Covid, presented the challenge of available parking spaces. They ran out of parking spaces at the start of year. Subsequently, they rearranged spaces and added 30 spots. This year with the addition of 30 spots and less students in the building they had projected returning to a previous typical cycle filling out spaces in the spring. However, that is not the case and all spaces are currently accounted for. Also, presently, they are arranging a facility audit from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission through their local, expedited partnership program, OFCC ELPP. The ELPP local partnership program provides two significant sources of information to the schools. One is an enrollment projection for the next ten years, and the other is a facility audit of all of the buildings, spaces and grounds. The enrollment projection is complete. The student enrollment is to remain static over the next ten years; no big spikes up or down. The facility audit has yet to occur. They recently heard from the OFCC that the audit time line is now October 2023 to February 2024. In terms of the future, given the current capacity and the significant increase of drivers, they will use the results of the audit to determine needs, priority of needs and how they can best support the students and staff of Bay High School through the facilities, buildings and grounds.

Ms. Maier asked whether the scope of the audit will include parking, ingress and egress from the high school especially, and the Middle School.

Mr. Ereditario will share what the OFCC ELPP program does in terms of an audit with the members of Council.

Ms. Maier noted that there have been some repeated issues with drops offs and parking. Some of the communications that have gone out about parking did not include anything about not dropping off and not parking. There needs to be some additional communication.

Mr. Clark stated that he appreciates the partnership with the schools for many, many years, and welcomed Mr. Eredirtario to the community, asking that he keep Council up to speed because traffic issues tend to come to the members of City Council. The more Council is advised the more they can share that information.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE- T. Kelly, D. Tadych, S. Byrnes Maier.

Mr. Kelly had no report at this time.

FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE -D. Tadych, P. Winzig, T. Kelly, D. Clark.

July 2023 Financial Statements of the City of Bay Village.

Mr. Tadych advised receipt of the July 2023 financial statements of the City of Bay Village as prepared and submitted by Finance Director Renee Mahoney.

PLANNING, ZONING, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE -P. Winzig, L. DeGeorge, M. Greco.

Review of bids and award of contract for Play-in-Bay Parking Lot Resurfacing.

Mr. Winzig stated that Council has received a tabulation of the bids received for the Play-in-Bay parking lot resurfacing. A very detailed memorandum has been received from Director of Public Service and Properties Liskovec and Infrastructure Manager Curtis Krakowski outlining the bid estimate and the very favorable bids of five companies. Also attached to the memorandum was a map of the realignment of some of the space. The map shows a clean-up on the walkways both north and south of the parking lot and an improvement on the entrance area. It is very well thought through, and Mr. Winzig recommends acceptance of the bids based on the input of the service team.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS/STREETS/SEWERS/DRAINAGE COMMITTEE -L. DeGeorge, T. Kelly, P. Winzig.

Storm Sewer Culvert Repair at 28900 Osborn Road.

Ms. DeGeorge advised that a review of the bid for the storm sewer culvert repair at 28900 Osborn Road has been provided to Council. This matter was discussed in May, and the culvert issue has nothing to do with the current water issues. The Service Director has recommended taking the alternative correction measure of \$22,500.

City Engineer Bierut stated that there is a culvert that goes underneath the driveway at 28900 Osborn Road diagonally that is part culvert and part bridge. There is a beam that is deteriorating. The property includes an easement that gives the City the maintenance responsibility for the culvert. Mr. Bierut met with four or five contractors at the site to get their input which resulted in the proposals received. The work should take less than one month.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, the owners of the property addressed Mr. Bierut asking for an explanation of the scope of the project.

Mr. Bierut stated that they will support the driveway, pull out the beam, rehab the abutment, and put in a new beam for support. Mrs. Hoffman asked if this will be a good, long-term, sustainable solution. Mr. Bierut responded affirmatively, noting that they looked at putting up an entirely new culvert. The cost would be about \$100,000 and there is an undetermined amount of time to wait for the culvert. The contractor that will be performing the work that will be approved is very confident of the solution, and has a lengthy history of work for the City of Bay Village. If there is anything damaged by equipment it will be replaced. Mr. Bierut noted that the homeowners have been remarkably patient through this process.

Mr. Greco asked if Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman will have access through their driveway or provided parking. Mr. Bierut stated that parking may have to be in the street for a few days. Mayor Koomar noted the process to obtain permission from the Police Department for street parking.

RECREATION AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE -S. Byrnes Maier, M. Greco, D. Tadych.

Reese Park Pickleball Courts.

Ms. Maier noted recent discussion about Reese Park Pickleball Courts and called upon Mayor Koomar for further comments.

Mayor Koomar stated that last year a tennis court at Reese Park was converted to a pickleball court. Since then, pickleball continues to explode and also has attracted a younger group of players. Recreation Director has been researching where additional courts could be added, noting that courts are filled with people waiting to play. A recent *New York Times* article talks about the noise of pickleball, and the decibel rating of the sound of the ball. Residents in the area have been up in arms because people were playing from early morning to late evening and were bothered by the sound of the ball. The administration is mindful of not putting courts in parks that close to residents' homes. Pickleball authorities are looking at what can be done to soften the sound of the ball, but at the same time do not want to impact the growth of the sport. Looking at Reese Park for expansion, consideration has been whether to build additional courts or repurpose the basketball courts. This deliberation occurred long before the incident that occurred at Reese Park. The Police Department has noted public safety issues at the site. Conversion of the basketball courts would result in four more pickleball courts, probably in the \$40,000 price range. Six new courts would cost \$250,000 and would push it slightly closer to the residents on the other side of the culvert. Many of the users of the basketball courts would just like to shoot with their children or grandchildren and are not looking for a full court game. There is probably room by the restrooms to put something to serve that need for the local residents and it is a little closer for parents with children using other facilities in the park. There is a possibility of getting some of this done in the fall and putting the basketball portion in the spring. This has been communicated to the residents. Before the incident in July there were multiple reports of noise and profanity. The Mayor noted that the option presented will be considered to satisfy the growth of pickleball and take care of folks who want to shoot hoops.

Mr. Tadych noted that residents are hearing the noise of the pickleballs over two blocks and he receives many calls. Mr. Tadych noted that he would like to strongly address this matter. He stated that there must be some kind of baffle.

Recreation Director Enovitch stated that the federation is looking at equipment. Presently it is a Wiffle ball with a wooden paddle and they are discussing trying to soften the paddle and change the ball.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that she is not totally convinced that adding more pickleball courts is the solution to the issues that are happening, or have happened, at Reese Park, and not totally convinced that moving the basketball hoops and replacing the court is the answer either. The Mayor talked about the trend of pickleball and where it is going, but, as a smaller example, there was a time when Gaga ball was very popular. The Middle School put up two giant Gaga ball courts and no one uses them. Pickleball will probably stay longer, but it seems like Gaga ball was another trend that came and went. Ms. DeGeorge reiterated that she knows the Mayor is considering the safety factor, but is not convinced that is the right way to move.

Dr. Nelson, Huntington Woods Parkway, commented that he plays pickleball and tennis, and noticed that there are a lot of non-Bay residents using the courts to the point that he is the only Bay resident using the court or can't even get on a court. If we build more courts they may get filled by non-residents and this may not be something the residents want to pay for. There may be a solution of how to have Bay residents have access to the courts rather than the overflow of non-residents. That is something to look into. Rather than just build more courts, make sure that Bay residents can use the courts.

Mayor Koomar noted that many residents are going to courts in other cities. The growth is there and people are travelling farther distances.

The Mayor stated that Bradley Park has not been considered for pickleball courts because of the noise factor.

From a public safety perspective at this time, the Mayor stated that he is not ready to reinstall the basketball hoops at Reese Park following extensive discussion with Police Chief Gillespie, Police Lieutenant Palmer and Detective Elish.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that part of the problem is that Council is not aware of those cases; they do not know about them. To say that something will be done based on something is all new to Council, and she has an issue with that.

Mayor Koomar stated that they get daily police reports on many things and monitor it.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that Council does not have any stats on what has happened over there to make a valid comparison with what could be done. She noted that she hears from many of the residents who live around Reese Park and the issues they have with what goes on in the park, but once you get further out in the community she tends to hear the opposite about what is happening over there and why. She has nothing to say to that other than we have a long history of "xyz." The information is important to Council.

Ms. Maier stated that she would like to have the Recreation Commission chime in on this as well, and will schedule a meeting with them. If we are going to be contemplating changes to our inventory of facilities they need to be part of that process.

Mr. Clark stated that the points are well taken and this is a topic for continued discussion.

SERVICES, UTILITIES & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE –M. Greco, S. Maier, L. DeGeorge.

Mr. Greco had no report today.

AUDIENCE

Mr. Clark stated that due to the large amount of rainfall experienced last night, the audience portion will be addressed at this committee session rather than waiting for the special meeting. He noted that many people are online through Zoom, and all comments will be heard today.

The following comments from the audience were heard:

Dr. Nelson stated that he has been a resident on Huntington Woods Parkway for thirty years, and he has had water in his basement four times. The first time it was mitigated, in 2005, when he dug up all the storms and replaced tile with PVC. Dr. Nelson, continued, stating, this last month I have had it twice with extensive damage. My basement was a living area with a theatre, pool table and the damage has far exceeded my insurance. I had it again last night, and all of Huntington Woods, as far as I know, because we were all on the phone texting each other, all had it. My next-door neighbor came to this meeting too, because we were all together trying to mitigate it. We have a storm drainage problem, infrastructure, that is big. I have an observation, I know it is not scientific: I was in Ralph Stilphen's basement, who was a longtime resident, but is now in Avon Lake, last night when I got the call from my wife. I drove through several communities of Avon Lake coming to Bay and all the streets were dry. At least the drainage was happening. As soon as I hit Bay Village and Walker Road, I could see the storm drainage backup problem. I turned left onto Plymouth and about two houses up the street was impassable. I had to backup because I was watching the water rise about a foot a second. I backed up on Walker and the water was so high my car was shooting water up thirty feet into the area. This did not happen in Avon Lake. Only Bay. By the time I got to my house both sides of the street were totally filled. The storm drainage is just not working. This is huge for our community. Our property values are affected, our ability to be insured is affected, the loss of property is huge. As an emergency physician, my expertise is triage, where I sort patients – who needs it first. This is a triage problem. The infrastructure needs to be in the top priority, for us to move forward as a community.

Ariadni Dagiasis, 31036 Huntington Woods Parkway, stated that it has happened five times in eleven years and stated that it has come to the point to consider leaving the community because of the flood problem. Obviously he does not want to do that because he loves it here, but the flooding needs discussion more than anything else.

The Mayor stated that he has communicated with multiple residents in Mr. Dagiasis' area and they will be sending out a lot of surveys to affected areas. City Engineer Don Bierut will look at the capacity of the public lines and even the discussion of ensuring that residents are connected properly, even going back to the foundations, that sanitary lines are connected to sanitary lines and storm lines are connected to storm lines. That survey is about completed and will be sent to quite a few homes in these affected areas so they can gather data in their database this fall. They are working on additional testing protocol from a triage perspective of looking at all those perspectives.

Engineer Don Bierut stated that the first step is for the Service Department to make sure that there isn't a blockage in the street line in these affected areas. The Service Department is on top of that. Secondly, we start looking at individual streets and individual homes and how they were affected, whether it is a sanitary back-up, storm back-up. Mr. Bierut noted that he lives in Rocky

River and had four inches of back up in his home last night. He is pretty sure that he is cross-connected; the sanitary sewer going into the storm sewer. They need to methodically go through the neighborhood streets to see what the problem is, if it is a capacity issue, or an infiltration issue, or a combination of each.

Sarah Sweeney, 368 Oakmoor, commented through Zoom, stated that her basement flooded now for the third time this summer last night. Ms. Sweeney continued, stating, I spoke to the previous resident who owned this home for thirty years and she only had one episode of water and had mitigated then with water proofing. This was mixed sanitary sewer again, coming up through the sewer. My unique question is about whether you are seeking any type of funding or federal funding to assist the residents. I have already maxed out my insurance and I know it is going to cost probably double that to do what I need to do to appropriately take care of this issue and I know there are many residents who don't have the ability to pay for what they need to do to help mitigate, to keep mold out of their basement, and avoid future problems. My question is if you are seeking any funding to assist residents and the clean-up.

Mayor Koomar stated that Bay Village is not in a flood plain, per se, so it would not qualify for FEMA, but we have been reaching out to our different congressional representatives to look for other options to see if there is any relief that could come our way to the residents.

Ms. Sweeney stated that her second question is just about the first issue about the basketball courts. She stated, I appreciate all the thought that has been put into it and I think it is a difficult issue around gun violence in our greater Cuyahoga County community and concerns about that, but I am just wondering if anyone had a chance to talk to any of the folks that were using the basketball courts that were using it in a positive way, to find out what really had happened around some of the issues we were having as opposed to just deciding to just get rid of basketball, because I know many of our residents do enjoy basketball as well as residents surrounding Bay Village.

Mr. Kelly responded stating that he has not, but is in much the same position and echoes the remarks of Ms. DeGeorge from before. I understand the safety concerns but I have some real hesitation because this feels reactionary to me, but I am left at the moment just letting the process go through and when the time comes voting my conscience.

Ms. Sweeney stated, thank you, I think we can't ignore the racial component to this and that is not always the key part of every issue, but when we think about who is playing pickleball versus who is playing basketball in our community sometimes it is going to be different communities and often those are different races, more black folks playing basketball and more white folks playing pickleball, and if we make that kind of decision we have to think about what implication it has for different communities. Thank you so much for taking my comments.

Kristen, via Chat, stated that the pump station at Walker and Walmar has stopped working during both these incidents. Who is responsible?

Mr. Bierut stated that he could speak to that, but it is a better question for the Service Department.

Mayor Koomar stated that the pump stations all have alarms and backup power. I can't speak to your specific question about last night, but if there was an issue personnel would be notified and backup generators would be used to keep those stations operating. I have not received a report today about that.

Ms. DeGeorge asked if Council can find out for sure because she has gotten pictures from residents of the red light on the pump to alert the pump station and she is not sure what that red light means.

Mayor Koomar responded affirmatively.

Mr. Winzig stated that the pump they are identifying had the red light on last night. He drove around during the storm and noticed it, but did not know what that meant, other than it was on.

Mr. Clark stated that given the magnitude of the problem it is important for Council and incumbent upon the administration to share with Council so they, as ambassadors, can put out the information. It has been problematic in the sense that so many people are affected by it. This is where communication is going to be A1 in priority.

Gary Sharp, 616 Dwight Drive, stated that the reactionary measure of the basketball courts and removing it, I don't want to overplay those comments but it is one of those things that, as an auxiliary officer for the Bay Village Police Department, we were doing patrols on Friday and Saturday nights. The council and the Mayor know how many hours we volunteer to the City out of our love for the City and it is one of those things, as those discussions come again to reopen some of these things, to call upon maybe the auxiliary force to provide those patrols because everyone knows presence means a lot. Visual presence of any type of authority or law enforcement, things of that nature, might help to provide stability and lessen any altercations or disagreements that may arise as youths or adults are playing together in a competitive sport. I just wanted to make that comment.

Comment in the Chat from 29131 Lincoln: I had a lot of water last night.

Another comment: There were service vehicles at both lift stations.

William Toler, 31309 Carlton: Can the City establish a place to record homes being affected and make it widely known for your property and the list so that the City can have a more accurate picture?

Mr. Clark commented that anyone who has wet basements or flooding should report to the Service Department to pinpoint where there are problems in the City.

Tracy, 28117 Wolf Rd. "We are waterproofed with a sump pump." They had six inches in the basement and the sump pump was overwhelmed. We lived in North Ridgeville and the city installed larger pipes in areas that had flooding. Why can't we do this?

31116 Walker: Walker Road was impacted just as the first gentleman described. The last two storms were the same where water pooled quickly and flooded the road. We see water coming out of the utility sink drain. Last night was worse. The gushing flooded all the basement area this time. My next-door neighbor is the same as we tried to help each other. Before we moved to this house the previous owner only had one minor flood in 40 years. We ripped carpet out of our newly finished basement, etc. The house was just rebuilt since the house fire two years ago. Sewer lines were checked and need for water proofing, etc. Looking forward to the resolution.

Mayor Koomar stated that he talked with a resident in the Ashton area and they had done all the waterproofing and they said they had a sump pump working and storm water was gushing up around the sump pump about two or three feet in the air. Another resident had gone through to make sure the pipes were properly connected. In that case they had put in a sump pump and a back up and both were working full tilt and they did not have any water. We have to look at that storm water management for sure.

Mr. Tadych stated that he would like to address the survey. He does not believe everyone calls the city. I don't think the average person like Sarah calls. Because she is on Oakmoor. I checked with Jon, we sat down at the screen in his office and we looked and only two people on Oakmoor talked about having a flooded basement. I am sure I will find out this week because there is a block party, that more than two people on Oakmoor had water. And, if you are going to try to send the form out for a response to just the houses we heard from, I think it is important that we hear from all the City, not just the homes that complained.

Mayor Koomar stated that he agrees with Mr. Tadych and that was the reason, for example in Huntington Woods Parkway, just from the people I know who had flooding from the last storm, it doesn't align. But, we also see trends, so when we look at that it is all of Huntington Woods Parkway, all of Arlington Circle that we are going to be mailing these to because the whole idea is to capture that data because we know we are not getting all of that information. It will be something that you can mail back, for those who are not computer savvy, it will include a QR code to do it online and the information will feed into the database of our city engineer. If we know areas that are having problems we will mail one to every address and try to get that feedback.

Mr. Tadych stated that all residents should be considered.

Mr. Winzig asked if the businesses will be included.

Mayor Koomar stated that the focus now is just on residents.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that she did read last night that there was water inside the Malley's store.

Mr. Winzig stated that the intersection at Malley's continues to flood; that is in the process of the mitigation.

Mayor Koomar stated that the engineers have noted, in regard to the road flooding, that sometimes it has to do with the size of the catch basins. Holding water on the street is not the worst idea because it is there rather than somewhere else.

Mr. Bierut noted that in some other communities' sandbags are placed at the catch basins to keep all of the water from entering the storm system which could inhibit downspouts and home water from entering the storm system.

Mr. Winzig asked the Mayor what date the residents can expect the survey.

The Mayor stated, and Mr. Bierut confirmed, that the survey would go out within the next week.

Ms. Maier stated that in surveys sometimes people do not want to have identifying information. She asked if there is a way for people to say they are on a certain block without identifying their actual address, in the hope this might generate more responses with data that could be pinpointed.

Mr. Bierut agreed and stated they would look at the survey and see if it could have just the street if the responder did not want to disclose their address.

Mr. Tadych suggested a notation on the survey that it is for City use only and not to be shared.

Law Director Barbour commented that it is all public record.

Mayor Koomar stated that he believes extensive dye testing needs to be done on a home-by-home basis. He noted that a resident's son bought a home on Wolf Road and learned that his footer drains go into the sanitary sewer. Pre-EPA many builders did not hook up properly. The City does not allow that. Everyone must be hooked up correctly and the pipes sized accordingly. If sanitary pipes are oversized in low weather events the sanitary system won't function. Bottom line the recommendation from the administration to get through this is they would like Council to appropriate money for dye testing to go through each home. Getting out and looking at everything in a very granular level is probably what will be done because there are probably a lot of cross connections.

Mr. Tadych stated that the City should have a record of dye testing done earlier. That information could be reviewed for those homes that have flooding. Most of the City was dye tested, so those results should pertain to whether or not we have to have dye testing. If they passed once the lines are properly hooked.

Ms. DeGeorge stated there are other issues and she would defer to Mr. Bierut for comments.

Mr. Bierut stated that the homes should be looked at, since then there may have been some changes.

Mayor Koomar stated that some of the dye testing where issues were identified it is very unclear whether the properties were retested and whether recommended repairs were made. The focus at this time is a little more comprehensive.

Mr. Winzig asked if it would be possible for the administration to draft a document that could be shared with the residents. When Council members are contacted, aside from saying they are sorry for their situation, we are working on it is pretty vague. Something that could be forwarded out to a resident saying that we are doing a survey, checking the mains, there is quite a bit of work that is taking place since the first incident. When people are seeing red lights on pump stations, the lack of information is hard and it is difficult to talk with the residents because there is nothing for us to say other than I am sorry for your issue, it is being addressed. It may be multiple communications.

Mayor Koomar stated that they have been discussing putting together a guide on proper connections because part of dye testing is making sure the homeowner has good information to engage a plumber if they have a cross connection. A comprehensive guide could be put on the website or forwarded to a resident. Ongoing maintenance is a consideration. Plumbers at certain points in the past would put a trap into the storm sewer. The Mayor noted the importance of snaking the lines. With the rain now we know that there are other issues that we have to address in our public mains. We are trying to figure out how to provide all the information because it is layered on.

Mr. Winzig suggested an outline of the steps that are underway. To say we are going to post a guide on the website we know is not going to be immediate; it will take some time to put that together. Information is needed that we can provide to residents to say these are the things we are working on, they are all in sequence and as they become developed they should help. There is quite a bit; there is a guide, there is maintenance, there is a survey, flooded streets. When a resident says they called at the first incident and they are overwhelmed, what's going on? With the rainfall it gets repeated and they have already depleted their insurance, run the shop vac and the basement and we have nothing to say but I'm sorry it happened again. As soon as we can get something published it would help.

Mr. Kelly stated that from his vantage point it is the City communicating action steps, a timeline and demonstrating that we have the same sense of urgency as the people experiencing these problems. It is understood that last night, in terms of size and scope, is a different animal than what was happening the last couple of times. Those speak more to the Mayor's point of trying to tease out causation versus correlation, but last night to the uninitiated observer it is going to appear to have been more capacity issue. The amount of rainfall in the amount of time it was received would seem to have overwhelmed most of the westshore, but the people who experienced this multiple times in the last month, regardless of the amount of rainfall, are appropriately going to be expecting some understanding of what is going on behind the scenes. When Public Improvements, Streets, Sewers and Drainage Committee meets next week it is reasonable to anticipate a hostile audience that is downtrodden as a result of a lot of negative experiences and it would be exceptionally helpful and useful to Council if we had more than talking about the end of things residents can do to self-help and more of the kind of explanation or chart that we would have for other capital projects or other planning initiatives, even

something like the lake front. It is reasonable to anticipate that Jon Liskovec, the Service Department and the Mayor are working along those lines, but it is a question to be able to share that with the people who are affected so that they know it is being addressed in an ongoing basis and we aren't ignoring it in favor of other items. There is a perception issue that needs to be addressed. That can be addressed by demonstrating the necessary level of urgency in terms of what we are doing on our end. Mr. Kelly respectfully asks that we do whatever we can along those lines within the next seven days in the hopes that we are able to share more of that in the meeting next week.

Ms. Maier stated that she knows putting an exact time line together is going to be difficult, but just having some idea. Going through dye testing would take approximately 18 months. Giving some idea of how long it would take for each of the steps, even though it might not be by April 2024 this would be done, but it will take six to nine months for a study of this scope.

The Mayor stated that he believes he has answered all the emails that he received from others about that and he, too, has hauled things out of his mom's basement and knows that experience. Working with the Service Director and Engineer to get this information out, even the survey with a time line of 60 to 90 days to receive the information back, everything heard leads toward dye testing. They can simulate water in the storm and sanitary sewers.

Mr. Bierut stated that the testing is on the City end, not just the private end. Do we have capacity issues? It is reasonable that we give a time line and outline the steps going forward. Each part of town isn't going to be the same, given the ages of the homes and the infrastructure.

Ms. Maier stated that in the late nineties all the sewers were videoed and there were a lot of cross connections. She asked if that data is available. Mr. Bierut will check with Director of Public Service Liskovec.

Mayor Koomar noted that the City of Lakewood had an engineering firm in the past that did a test of 100 homes and replaced the laterals on private property from the foundation into the system. They were expecting an 80 to 86% decrease in infiltration, and when it was all said and done their reduction in inflow and infiltration was a little over 8%, which goes back to the connections in the home.

The Mayor stated that not all residents will receive the survey. The Ashton Lane area was filmed, flushed and checked; sound waves are being used to move more quickly through the City. That is more on the maintenance side. We are doing those things although very quiet about it. Highlighting some of those investments and equipment and what we are doing to stay out in front of it from a cleaning point is on the other end of capital improvements.

Mr. Winzig stated that he had a resident say that nothing has been done in seven years. Mr. Winzig replied that quite a bit has been done over the past number of years that he has been part of Council and we get reports from Service Director Liskovec and his team about the work they are doing including the cleaning and scoping of the pipes. It is hard to be specific. Anything Council could pass along would be great.

Ms. DeGeorge asked if Council can get a list of from July 2 to present of where the sewer trucks have filmed and flushed. There are residents who say they called but no one came to their house. The reply is they may not come to your house, but they went to your street. The resident will reply that they were never on their street. Ms. DeGeorge reiterated her request for a list.

The Mayor stated that he would guess that list would be really short because in the time area of rain events they are working with individual property owners checking the mains in those areas. They may be taken off their standard schedule of cleaning and work with a specific resident. A list of all the calls they have gone to can be provided but it may not be part of the standard cleaning because they have focused with individual residents.

Ms. DeGeorge asked if she can get the list.

The Mayor stated that she can get the list.

Ms. Maier stated that at the last council meeting there was a resident suggesting doing a map like the leaf truck map showing the location. This would show the preventive maintenance that is being done.

Mr. Tadych suggested that the Public Improvements, Streets, Sewers and Drainage Committee might fill the Council Chambers to an overflow capacity. He suggested thinking of having the meeting in a larger place to show we care.

Ms. DeGeorge stated that Mr. Tadych should not say that having the meeting here means that we don't care.

Mr. Tadych stated that he knows we care but if people can't get in we are not doing our best in giving them a suitable area.

Law Director Barbour noted the availability of Zoom access. This would address Mr. Tadych's concern.

Mr. Clark stated that there is one week to provide initial information to residents, at least a road map of what we have done, what is going on now, and what needs to happen down the road. Nothing raises the ire of residents like basement flooding. It has affected a lot of people; not everyone is going to report it here. Speaking for himself, if there are intermediate ways to provide funding to take care of some of the initial problems there would not be a hesitation for Council to do so. We are willing to support funding for a large equalization tank because of the EPA mandate, we should be equally willing to provide support as well.

Mr. Tadych stated that he shares Mr. Clark's thoughts.

The following comments from Chat were read:

Tom Cucuzza, 31010 Lake Road: Many homes in Bay still have downspouts connected to the sanitary sewer. What is the City doing to enforce this long-standing ordinance to disconnect

downspouts from sanitary sewers? How can building permits for any reason be approved on any homes with downspouts connected to the sanitary lines? How can homes be bought and sold when in violation of this ordinance?

Sarah (no last name): You mentioned we are not in a flood zone, making us ineligible for FEMA funds. Is there any effort or thought into changing that flood zone determination so our community could receive the necessary funds?

26505 Russell Road Resident: Having the Service Department drive around on Tuesday to see what houses have flooded by the debris on the curb as a good way to determine the extent of the issue is one option.

Paul Knaggs: I am a resident living on Ashton Lane. We had the worst flooding we ever had in 36 years since we lived in Bay. I am requesting any and all information about how the city is handling this situation.

Bruner: Dye testing and hooking everyone up properly is a good thing, but it doesn't account for why the flooding seems notably worse this year. There has to be another factor here with regard to storage capacity.

Sarah Sweeney: We need help to figure out what to assess and in what order.

Another Chat Comment: Action steps and visibility would be helpful. This is an issue with the city's infrastructure. These aren't isolated incidents due to a lack of homeowner maintenance. It is a city-wide issue. We spend thousands of dollars to mitigate issues but until the city takes ownership of their issues and takes action, it will not be resolved. It is time to stop passing the buck.

Another Chat Comment: Is the survey going out to all residents, not just the blocks they think are affected?

Another Chat Comment: It is hoped it would go to all residents.

Amy Basora: I am a project manager by profession. I would like to help in any way with any communications, effective planning. Will there be a centralized channel of communication for any information and all updates regarding this topic and issue?

Chat Comment: How do we know if downspouts are connected to sewer lines?

Mayor Koomar stated that flood plains are determined by FEMA and engineers and not something we can negotiate ourselves into. Homeowners may not want to do that because homeowners' insurance would reflect the fact that they are in a flood plain.

Mr. Bierut stated that a vast majority of the time people are trying to get out of the flood plain for the benefit of their homeowner's insurance.

Mr. Barbour stated that there are building code issues relative to flood plains.

Mayor Koomar stated that they will continue to do city-wide communications as they have done through the Mayor's Quarterly Newsletter or off-cycle communications. Hard paper copies will be offered for those not computer savvy. These communications will be posted on email blasts, the website, links on social media to cover forms of print and electronic media to get the information out. The only way you can check downspouts is to test and this is where we are discussing with our engineers of having the City perform that because that is part of the overall system. It starts with the home and goes into our storm and sanitary pipes and public right-of-way. We need to maintain and be sure they have integrity, and have the engineers look at the sizing of those pipes as we go forward. What has been known as a five-year storm, twenty-five-year storm, or hundred-year storm is under review nationally given the current environmental conditions. When a roadway is being replaced would be the time to take those new standards into consideration. In the third storm this year, the City of Westlake experienced a 100-year storm; Strongsville and North Royalton were closer to the 200-year storm. We need to take those metrics into account when making capital improvements.

Mr. Bierut stated that Westlake measurements provided indicated a half inch of rain last night in 5 minutes, an inch in 15 minutes and almost two inches in an hour.

Downspout's connections can be tested by a plumber. We want to make sure it is consistent across the board. From the testing done years ago people have made changes in their systems and that is why we are leaning toward dye-testing the whole system from the house out to the public mains, and then analyze the public mains for capacity.

The surveys are targeted toward the areas that have the most issues as a starting point. That may be expanded more at a certain point. That information can be released when finalized. This would include different geographic areas of the City, and areas with different ages of infrastructure to get a mix of something that might have been done in the thirties or forties or seventies, eighties or nineties. We want to start there and can always expand it.

Mr. Winzig asked if the survey is not being sent to all residents.

Mayor Koomar stated that it is not being sent to all residents at this point.

Mr. Winzig stated that if it is not being sent to all residents, what would the Mayor like Council to tell people that would like them, if he can get a copy of it.

Mayor Koomar said that they can take that under advisement.

Mr. Bierut stated that it will be available on the City website as well for anyone that wants to fill it out.

Mr. Winzig stated that this is an important issue and residents should be involved whether they had flooding or not. They can also answer if they have had a sump pump replaced, if they had

their sanitary and main separated. Even if they didn't get flooding it would be good to have that data.

Another comment from Chat asked how a resident would sign up for the Mayor's email blast. Mayor Koomar replied that the resident can sign up for the email blast by contacting his assistant, Katie, at 440-899-3416.


Mr. Clark thanked everyone for their time. The Public Improvements, Streets, Sewers and Drainage Committee will meet Thursday, August 31 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Bay Village City Hall, with the Zoom link posted under Agendas and Minutes on the city website.

MISCELLANEOUS

The next Regular Meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.



Dwight A. Clark, President of Council



Joan T. Kemper, Clerk of Council