

Mayor's Message, February 2015

We are off to a busy start to a new year. I want to take this time to update you on several projects that we are continuing to work on to address storm water flooding and to reduce sanitary sewer back up events.

Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study:

URS Corporation is conducting a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study to identify problem areas within the sewer collection system that are potentially contributing to flooding and other related issues. There are two tasks associated with this project, manhole inspection and mainline dye testing. Each task and timeline are highlighted below:

➤ **Task 1 Manhole Inspection**

Manhole inspection is another tool used to confirm sewer mapping and locate sources of infill and infiltration. URS is conducting manhole inspections of approximately 300 manholes. This work began mid-December with an expected completion date of February 2015.

➤ **Task 2 Mainline Dye Testing**

Mainline testing, which includes testing storm sewers, catch basins or ditches that cross or parallel the sanitary sewer will identify problems within the city's responsibility to repair. These tests include adding non-toxic dyed water to the storm structures and watching to see if dye transfers to the sanitary sewer. During this testing, sewers will be plugged to create a head of water in the storm sewer similar to what occurs during rain events. Most times water is added to catch basins to fill the plugged storm sewer. Dye transfer for a "positive" test is seen in the sanitary sewer. Once identified in the sanitary manhole, a CCTV camera will be inserted into the sanitary sewer segment found to have dye in it. This camera will identify any sources from joints, cracks or laterals and quantify the severity and location of the leak. Task 2 will begin mid-February with an expected completion date of April 2015. All testing locations and findings will be reported to the city in their final report.

Equalization Basin Study:

URS Corporation is also conducting studies on the feasibility of future installation of an underground EQ basin. URS has begun flow monitoring/mapping, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, field services and equalization basin review. This should provide relief to the local sewer system from inflow and infiltration, which are the principal cause of local basement flooding. I previously communicated these studies should be completed by March 2015, however, in order to get accurate engineering data, more rain events exceeding two inches need to occur. The above studies, with a recommendation for the exact size and location of the basin where it will have the greatest impact, will be delayed until sometime later this spring.

Storm Water Utility:

We are currently working with a consultant to institute a Storm Water Utility. We need a sustainable and well-funded program to address storm water flooding. We are unable to accomplish this using the general fund and grants. Over 100 Ohio cities have instituted Storm Water Utilities. The Storm Water Utility will have three major goals:

- **Flood Reduction Projects.** We already have a flood reduction plan that is estimated to cost about \$4 million which does not include land acquisition. This would allow us to significantly reduce flooding throughout the city, including the Pitts/Gina area and Highland Drive as well as other areas.
- **Storm System Maintenance & Life Cycle Replacement.** This includes a continuation of the cameraing of our sewer lines and repair as needed as we have been doing for years on an infrequent basis because of lack of funding.
- **Water Regulatory Compliance** is the third leg of a Storm Water Utility to make sure our system stays in compliance with EPA regulations.

The Storm Water Utility will be presented to City Council at a special meeting on January 26, 2015.

Detention Basins:

As part of the Center Ridge Road reconstruction project, four new extended detention basins to control run-off from Center Ridge Road will be installed as part of the project. City Council authorized an additional \$11,000 in the design so that the detention areas that will be built meet our standards, which are in excess of Ohio Department of Transportation's standards. This is huge storm water detention where none exists today.

We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to minimize future flooding and sanitary sewer back up in our great city! If you have any questions, please contact my office at (440) 353-0811.