

City of Champaign, Illinois
Minutes of Meeting

Stormwater Utility Fee Advisory Committee Meeting

June 18, 2012

Advisory Committee Members Present: Clif Carey, Steve Cochran, James Creighton, Karen Foster, Jim Jesso, Vic McIntosh, Carol Jo Morgan, John Pope, Anna Maria Watkin, Judy Wiegand

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Eliana Brown, Seamus Reilly, Andrew Timms

City Staff Present: Joe Hooker, Alex Nagy, Dennis Schmidt, Jamie Vermillion

Consultants Present: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Introductions

Committee members and City staff members were introduced.

Stormwater Utility Fee Advisory Committee - Purpose

Schmidt explained the purpose of the Stormwater Utility Fee Advisory Committee is to help complete the Credit and Incentive Manual for the Stormwater Utility Fee with the assistance of City Staff and the City's consultant, AMEC Earth & Environmental over the course of four meetings.

Stormwater Utility Fee - Review

Schmidt summarized what a stormwater utility fee is and why the City adopted a stormwater utility fee.

Watkin asked if the estimated \$86.2 million of stormwater capital funding needs includes areas in the City which have not been studied in depth. Schmidt clarified that the \$86.2 million estimate only includes dollars identified as needs by drainage studies or Master Plans.

Creighton asked when impervious area measurements of commercial properties will begin and how long they will take to complete. Schmidt indicated the consultant, AMEC, started measuring commercial properties at the end of April 2012. Nagy added that the billing database should be complete by the end of November 2012, so measurements should be finished by that time.

Stormwater Utility Fee - Rate Ordinance

Schmidt reviewed the Stormwater Utility Fee Rate Ordinance emphasizing sections applicable to credits and incentives and explained how the stormwater utility fee will function in the City of Champaign. The full Rate Ordinance is included as Attachment I in the Stormwater Utility Fee Advisory Committee Meeting Packet.

Creighton asked if incentives will be applied as credits to the property owner's stormwater utility fee account. Schmidt indicated that the City will disburse a check following approval of the completed incentive. Nagy added that the only reduction for single family and duplex properties where the credit will be applied as a bill reduction is the Private Detention Maintenance credit.

Pope asked why a rain barrel install is considered an incentive rather than a credit since the barrel will continue to reduce stormwater year after year. McIntosh explained that an incentive is only paid to a property owner one time. In effect, staff will only have to visit the property one time. Schmidt further explained that incentives for single family and duplex properties were developed in a way to make them more appealing to property owners. For example, if a 15% credit was given to a single family/duplex property owner to build a rain garden, this would equate to a savings of less than \$1 a month. An incentive of \$250 is much more desirable to property owners.

Watkin asked if credits and incentives will be retrospective, i.e. will property owners who have already taken actions to reduce their stormwater runoff (rain garden, rain barrel, etc.) be eligible for these credits and incentives? Schmidt said property owners will be eligible to receive credits and incentives for actions previously taken to reduce runoff.

Jesso asked if Champaign is treating large commercial properties similarly to other larger communities with stormwater utility fees. Schmidt explained that Champaign is treating commercial properties exactly the same as other communities. No properties will be exempt from the stormwater utility fee.

Public Participation

There were no questions or comments made by members of the audience.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 16 from 4-5:30 in Council Chambers. Meetings may be viewed on CGTV or "On Demand" through the City's website, should a Committee member miss a meeting. Staff is also available to meet with Committee members privately if one is absent.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.