



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Joseph Coppola, Jr., Chair John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Coppola and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Mahoney and McMullen. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Buckman, Giraldo, Reeder and Zelinsky. Also present were Tyler Theder, Regulatory Compliance Officer; Michael Handler, Director of Administration; and William Brink, WPCA.

Chair Coppola started the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. O29.030	ORDINANCE, <u>for publication</u> ; Amending Section 214-9 of the Code regarding Discharge of Drainwater upon Sidewalks and Roadways. 02/02/15 – Submitted by Mayor Martin	Approved, as amended, 5-0-0

Mr. Theder explained that:

- There have been icing conditions all over the city from pipes discharging from homes onto City streets, such as from sump pumps
- This creates a hazard for the public and liability for the City, so he would like to add the term “or roadway” to the ordinance
- He has received 10 or 15 complaints regarding this, as a result of which they sand and salt the road, but the discharge washes away the salt

Committee members discussed eliminating the words “or runoff from any driveway or premises.” A motion to amend the ordinance to eliminate the words “or runoff from any driveway or premises” was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Coppola, Adams, Coleman, Mahoney and McMullen in favor). Mr. Theder explained that drainage of pools would have to be into outdoor drain connected to sanitary sewer system, or drain the pool into the storm sewer after non-chlorinating the water. He will be sending out a mailing on this to residents. A motion to approve the ordinance for

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:00:06

- Capital Improvement Plan
 - Engineering studies of the upgrade of the Treatment Plant Raw Sewage Pump Station and computer system (SCADA) are complete. Study of the upgrade of the aeration system blowers to improve plant operation and achieve energy savings is ongoing
- SWPCA Financials
 - Financial Statement for FY ending June 30, 2014 shows major improvement in SWPCA financial position with increases in net position and pay down of debt to City (from operations) of \$1.6 million (compared to target paydown of \$1.15 million in FY 13-14 operating budget)
 - Funded an unrestricted cash reserve of \$1.5 million budgeted in FY 13-14 toward meeting rating agency requirement of \$4.0 million (90 days of operating expense)
 -

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Brink explained that there is only one employee with a Grade 4 license, but there are 4 positions with a Grade 3 license and they are trying to create a new position with a Grade 4 license.

Mr. Handler discussed the billing of attorney fees to people who don't pay their bills. He said the way they are billing is legal, appropriate and responsible. They did not feel it was appropriate to make customers who are current in their billing to pay for those who do not pay. The legal fees are only charged to those who do not try to create a payment plan with the WPCA, or make their payments under their payment plans and a lawyer then gets involved on behalf of the WPCA. The threshold for the lien is fairly low, but the lien for foreclosure is high. Unlike other utilities, the WPCA can't shut off services. Some of the payment plans are quite low. The State requires the WPCA to charge 1.5% interest per month.

Mr. Brink explained that the next time they will review the rate will be for the October, 2015 bill.

As a Secondary Committee:

- 1 CS29.003 RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; Concerning Building Permit Fees.
02/05/15 – Submitted by Jim Hricay
2. CS29.013 ORDINANCE for publication; Concerning Car And Truck Tire Disposal Fees.
02/05/2015 – Submitted by Jim Hricay

Rep. Coppola adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Coppola, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).