

Sanitation Committee
April 15, 2026
10:00 AM

Present: Matt Crull, Bob Griffith, Steve Engberg, Drew Schumacher, Lori Davis, John Boecker, Chris Ellington, Jim Warner, Shelbi Swinscoe

Absent:

Called meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Review Request from Resident at 505 W. Henry Street for Reimbursement

The Committee reviewed a request from Miguel Eguia, 505 W. Henry Street, for reimbursement of expenses related to his sewer line and associated costs. Drew Schumacher, Public Works Director, reported that the line had been jetted in November and again in March. Tree roots were identified on the City's side of the line, which were ground down and treated.

Following discussion, the Committee voted to deny reimbursement of expenses. However, the Committee approved lining the sewer line and incorporating the work into the Cherry Street/Wilson Street Project.

Review Quotes to Update Saunders Branch Lift Station

John Boecker, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, presented quotes for upgrades to the Saunders Branch Lift Station. Boecker explained that the station has experienced ongoing operational issues. The proposed improvements would eliminate the existing float system and implement an alternative method for monitoring levels.

The Committee approved proceeding with the recommended upgrades to the lift station.

Discuss Spring Cleanup Options

The Committee discussed Spring Cleanup in response to several recent complaints. It was noted that the City previously discontinued the program due to low participation and an approximate cost of \$18,000. Staff contacted WEMIGA, the City's former service provider, but they are unable to accommodate the City this fall.

Based on cost considerations and lack of availability, the Committee agreed not to reinstate the Spring Cleanup program at this time.

Discuss Solid Waste Fees

The Committee reviewed the status of the Solid Waste Fund. City Clerk Lori Davis explained that the fund is currently operating at a deficit due to increased costs associated with insurance, workers' compensation, and wages. Additionally, unpaid utility bills have negatively impacted the fund, as contracted haulers, WEMIGA and Lance Refuse, are paid from this account.

After discussion, the Committee approved increasing the Solid Waste Base Fee by \$1.00, bringing the total to \$5.25 per month, to help offset rising expenses. Staff will coordinate with legal counsel to prepare a draft ordinance reflecting this change.

Prepared by _____ Date _____

Approved by _____ Date _____