

Water System Advisory Council Meeting

November 16, 2021

Call to Order

Water System Advisory Council Special Meeting was held on November 19, 2021, through virtual setting utilizing Zoom Communications Software and livestreamed on YouTube for public access. It began at 5:30pm and was presided over by Sheryl Thompson, Water System Advisory Council Chair.

Attendees

Attendance: Benjamin Pauli, E. Yvonne Lewis, Sheryl Thompson, Wendy Braun, Nayyirah Sharif, Lawrence Reynolds, Nancy Love, Shawn McElmurry, Gina Smith, Jaron Houston

Member Location:

Flint, MI: Benjamin Pauli, E. Yvonne Lewis, Sheryl Thompson, Gina Smith, Lawrence Reynolds, Nayyirah Sharif, Jaron Houston, Wendy Braun

Ann Arbor, MI: Nancy Love

Fenton Township, MI: Jamie Gaskin

Royal Oak, MI: Shawn McElmurry

Members not in attendance:

Agenda

Meeting begins with roll call of attendance.

Sheryl Thompson, Water System Advisory Council Chairperson asks Water System Advisory Council members to approve the agenda for November 16, 2021, meeting. Nancy Love approved the agenda. Jamie Gaskin seconded the approval of the agenda. Jamie Gaskin moves to approve the minutes from October 19, 2021. All members unanimously approve the motion for agenda and meeting minute approval.

WSAC Chair, Sheryl Thompson, opens the floor for public comment.

Mike Brown, Director of DPW provides an update on the secondary pipeline to the WSAC. WSAC members asked about residents with concerns regarding water discoloration, how that relates to DPW, and flushing protocols. DPW Director provides resources to residents and members. The first is for water emergencies line, (810) 766-7202, which is manned 24/7. The second line for sewer emergencies is (810) 766-7079. If WSAC members or residents have any questions pertaining to water and sewer related issues, they should email water@cityofflint.com. For all questions, DPW will answer as soon as they can.

WSAC council asks how residents can voice their concerns. Lottie Ferguson, Chief Resilience Officer, states that residents are welcome to attend Water System Advisory Council Meetings.

WSAC members voice their concerns about how residents can be notified about water cutoffs and discoloration. Members believe there needs to be a process for informing residents on water updates. WSAC members request for a City Representative with knowledge from DPW to be present throughout the entirety of future meetings.

MDHHS presents sampling updates to Water System Advisory Council Members.

WSAC Chair transitions into Water System Advisory Council bylaw discussion. WSAC Vice Chair, Dr. Ben Pauli and WSAC member Gina Smith leads the discussion. All members were able to make comments on the document and discuss edits that need to be made. Members request Angela Wheeler, City Attorney, attend the next Water System Advisory Council meetings to explain the legal issues that need to be addressed within the bylaws of the council. WSAC member Nayyirah Sharif suggests consulting with other Water Advisory Councils about their bylaws. WSAC Chair agreed to follow up on this suggestion. WSAC Vice Chair asks members to make edits and by laws to be finalized by next meeting which will be in January of 2022.

WSAC Chair asks if a representative from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) could present an update about Pea Foss concerns. Erin Russel, EGLE representative, provided an update to the council.

WSAC Chair opens the floor to discuss the new city ordinance to create a resolution for water shutoffs. Public Health Manager, Qiana Towns-Williams, states that a follow up will be done to ensure WSAC members have the materials to discuss this matter at the next meeting in January 2022.

Public Health Manager asks WSAC members if meetings will continue virtually or in person beginning in the new year. WSAC member, Lawrence Reynolds, moves to have all meetings continue virtually due to COVID-19 and state ordinance. WSAC member, Nayyirah Sharif, seconds the motion. A roll call vote occurs, and all members unanimously approve the motion to have all meetings continue virtually until the Emergency Order is lifted. Public Health Manager asks members to consider another date and time for meetings since the Commission Board meeting conflicts with the Water System Advisory Council. WSAC members ask if another YouTube channel could be created to continue having meetings on the date and time as the Commission meeting to ensure technical conflicts do not continue. WSAC members asks Qiana Towns-Williams to follow up on this request. WSAC Chair tentatively schedules the next Water System Advisory Council meeting for January 18, 2022, at 5:30pm until the request for a separate YouTube channel is confirmed.

WSAC member, Laura Sullivan provides an update regarding water in Flint Schools.

WSAC Chair motions the adjourn the meeting. WSAC Vice Chair seconds motion to adjourn the meeting. WSAC Chair states that the next meeting will be in January 2022.