

**Public Hearing Minutes
City Council
Ordinance for Updating the City's Stormwater Management Code
November 2, 2020**

4:30 p.m. – City Hall Council Chambers

Mayor Bell called the hearing to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present: Councilwoman Brumley, Councilman Mertz, Councilman Zappone, and Councilman Finfrock, City Treasurer/Fiscal Director, Colleen Gain, and City Solicitor, Zach Kansler, were also present.

Open Hearing-Summary Explanation-Update City's Stormwater Management Code

Mayor Bell, "Solicitor Kansler, can you give us an explanation of the City's new Stormwater Management Code?"

Solicitor Kansler, "Sure. The Westmoreland County Commissioners this summer approved an amended Westmoreland County Integrated Water Resources Plan. Once that plan was adopted and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection all Municipalities within the county has six months to adopt a Stormwater Management Ordinance that was compliant with the Integrated Water Resources Plan. In order to do that the Conservation District and the County prepared a model Stormwater Management Ordinance that all the municipalities could base their Ordinances off of and would be in compliance with Integrated Resource Plan. The model Ordinance was prepared by Les Malocker and John Canfield. I took the model ordinance and had a lot of conversations with Les about the plan. I went to the Conversation District seminars that they had this spring. Essentially what this Ordinance does is it sets standards for what level of review is required for new impervious space. The projects that are going to start requiring increasing levels of planning and engineering review start at 651 square feet of impervious space. There are different tiers that will get up to a more detailed review. The final Stormwater Management Plan, the highest level of review is only triggered when there is 7,500 square feet of new impervious space. The amount of stormwater retention that would be required in these plans is based upon an interactive map that the County has prepared. It takes into account: steepness, soils, streams, infrastructure, and things of that nature. You have to reduce your outflow by a certain percentage as is identified in that map. Under this Ordinance people would have to install best management practices to hold the water an essentially discharge it at a slower rate so it does not overwhelm the stormwater facility. So the detention ponds, rain guards, rain barrels, and ditches in the ground will need filled with gravel that can hold on to the water and discharge it slowly. There are operations and management agreements that they will enter into the City certifying that they will maintain the stormwater improvements as it is required by the Code, and if they do not do that we are allowed to do it for them and bill them for it. So essentially, big picture on this is, it is an Ordinance that helps lessen the discharge of stormwater from properties when they build new impervious space. This will not be triggered

with a standard detached two car garage. This will be triggered if you have vacant lot and they are going to build a new house or a new commercial building and then again, the more impervious space you have the higher levels of review that will be required."

Mayor Bell, "Okay does everybody understand that?"

Public Comment

Mayor Bell, "Charlotte?"

Charlotte Kemerer, "My address is 935 Summit Drive in Greensburg, for about 75 years. Some of you are aware that Lynn Jobe and I have in the past worked on a project that would open the walkway between Pittsburgh Street and Offutt Field, and pave the area. Part of that planning was to do something with drainage, the stormwater drainage that would be created or avoided by us doing that. We have had talks with Tommy Bell and many attempts to talk to the Greensburg Sewage Authority, but the problem seems to be the discharge from the buildings along Hutchinson way. The buildings drain all of their roof drains, and stormwater drainage right into the alley which creates ponding, which in the winter freezes. So, as part of our project to do something about that walkway, we were held up with what we could do or what the City could do to elevate the ponding of the water on Hutchinson way so that we could effectively create a nice design to get people from that walkway over to Offutt Field. So I read the proposal today, which was very well written, for new people it is great. I was just wondering if any consideration is going to be given to any existing drainage problems such as the one that exists at Hutchinson way to elevate the ponding that currently exists. I can see in there you are trying to help move their water off their property and not on to other peoples properties, not in to the sewers, and not in to the stormwater system. Right now in Greensburg, and not just on Hutchinson Way but in many places, people can just drain their stormwater wherever. So I guess this is just a comment, because this Ordinance doesn't really address that. I hope that along with this you will continue to address or look at problems, existing problems, where stormwater is now ponding in areas on streets.

Councilman Mertz, "May I ask, how far away are you on that project?"

Ms. Kemerer, "We have a design, and that is as far as we are. We have met with Tommy Bell. As I had said we attempted to meet with the Greensburg Sewage Authority, but the problem is where do we drain the water to from that area? We were trying to do it, our design has beds in it. We talked to Kathy Hamilton, she worked with us extensively on that design, in fact it is her stormwater drainage design that we used. But when we get as far as the alley, we do not know what to do with the water."

Mayor Bell, "You don't know where to put it. Isn't there a drain in there Charlotte?"

Ms. Kemerer, "There is drain in front of Offutt Field, it is crumbling. The only thing we could do with our water, is to go underneath Hutchinson Way, which is a problem because of all the concrete, it is not all asphalt, and part of it is concrete. So we would have to go underneath that, and to run our water in to that drain that then goes to Jack's Run. But we really couldn't get past

that because we do not know who is going to pay for what, and how we can solve the problem of the water that is coming from all of the other buildings along that alley."

Councilman Mertz, "Is GGSA not calling your back?"

Ms. Kemerer, "This has been a year and a half since we have done anything, but we had set up some meetings, and they were not available. I am not sure that that's their issue, with the crumbling drain in front of Offutt Field."

Solicitor Kansler, "They have ownership and maintenance responsibilities for stormwater and sanitary sewage lines."

Councilman Mertz, "Anything that is underground is theirs."

Solicitor Kansler, "If there is a damaged stormwater drain we should make them aware of that."

Ms. Kemerer, "I think they are aware of that, but our problem is how we get the water across the alley and down so many feet, to that drain. I know that would involve some work."

Mayor Bell, "I know there is a drain there where is it at, right there at the opening?"

Councilman Finrock, "It is almost all the way to the field."

Mayor Bell, "Oh yeah, I know where you are talking."

Councilman Finrock, "They have got the walkway, I still call it the Perfection Photo Building, Triangle Tech I guess is the name of it now. But that grassy area that's what they want to pave. They can get the water down the alley, but not across the alley, because the drain is on the Offutt Field side. So they have got to get it to the Offutt Field side and let it run down in to the storm drain."

Councilman Mertz, "If you leave your contact information we can have Guy Hutchinson, Dan Fajt and Dave Klingler are on our GGSA board, for the City of Greensburg. Guy has done a great job at being responsive and being the intermediary between the City issues and GGSA issues. So I can have him call you."

Ms. Kemerer "Thank you."

Mayor Bell, "Thank you Charlotte."

Adjournment

Mayor Bell **MOVED** to adjourn, and Councilman Mertz **SECONDED**. No discussion. **All voted unanimously to adjourn.**