



TCC Minutes

Committee: Water Quality

Date + Time: December 9, 2025

Location: Council Chambers

Attendees: Adam Martinez, Theresa Morris, Theresa Gadus

Absentees: Nick Komives, Cerssandra McPherson

Also Present: Mac Driscoll, George Sarantou, Vanice Williams

Presenters: Douglas Stephens & Robert Kasischke

Legislative Aide Facilitating: Makenzie Kujawa

Topics...

2026 Budget Requests | Department of Public Utilities

Discussion...

- Cost increases fall within rate models
- Cash savings in each enterprise fund
- Adding staff to maintain basins (waterways initiative)
- Continuing to do targeted cleanings of major sewers
- Adding key technical help—cybersecurity
- Goals:
 - o Maintaining EPA compliance
 - o Addressing infrastructure with planned upgrades
 - Critical valve replacement program
 - o Investing in equipment
 - o Enhance customer service—emergency response new contract allowing department to act quicker
- Increased 4 FTE throughout department
 - o Utilities admin remains the same
 - o Water treatment adding 6 FTE (apprentices)—hard for department to attract tenured professionals so they are putting an emphasis on training up new professionals
 - o Water Reclamation increasing number of engineering associates
 - o Water distribution has lost positions—vacant clerk specialist, meter readers (moved to position of utility worker)
 - \$375,000 in labor savings due to removal of meter readers
 - o Sewers FTEs remain the same
- Toledo public power bringing in \$48,000 per year profit
- Labor is primary driver in increase in water reclamation budget
- \$1.4 million increase in water rec budget
 - o Paying licensing fees to help develop work force



TCC Minutes

- Upgraded some positions
- \$300,000 more in services for emergency repair contract (speeding up response time)
- Increase in services line in sewer division
 - Ohio utility protection services—may have to use OUPS services, 32,000 requests per year would have to hire a servicer for this
- 800 customers per month to kiosks—considering it to be very successful
- Continues to push customer portal as it gives customers most information

Questions/Referrals Requested...

- Martinez: concerns about microplastics?
 - Saums: lots of research went into this, confident there are no microplastics in our drinking water
- Morris: we have extremely aging infrastructure, are we purchasing enough new equipment (concerned about Arlington situation)?
 - Stephens: yes, we have a 5-year plan created by department which addresses our aging technology and equipment. Sewers will have money to contract with company who can clean out large scale sewers we are uncomfortable cleaning ourselves.
- Morris: Do we only have one customer for Toledo Public Power?
 - Stephens: yes, OMNI source.
- Morris: is there any thought of growing Toledo Public Power?
 - Yes, there have been discussions with our energy consultant, but we do not have a specific avenue forward.
- Gadus: Where are we at currently for staffing in the water department?
 - Dramatic increase in our filled positions especially in water treatment plant
 - Can follow up by giving current vacancy rate
- Gadus: Cybersecurity person for upgrades?
 - Stephens: adding an administrator of automation and have worked with Director Bennett on this. They want to make sure they are keeping up with automated systems.
- Gadus: licensure stipend, what percentage of staff is utilizing?
 - Stephens: would have to get final number by referral, but number of employees are greatly increasing
- Gadus: Are the 800 monthly customers returning or are they first time?
 - Stephens: there are a fair number of returning customers, but could get final numbers
- Sarantou: will do referral on how customers pay each month
- Sarantou: who is reading meters for customers who still have manual meters?
 - Saums: utility workers will still read them
- Driscoll: would like to explore in the future what amount of fund balances is supposed to be saved per best practices
- Morris: wanting to continue to have admin work with retirees on Bayview
 - Sarantou seconding Morris comments