



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Walter Denton, City Administrator
Dennis Sullivan, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Date: November 5, 2007
Subject: RESOLUTION – Water Lateral Program

List of committees that have reviewed: Public Works

Background: The program would basically operate as follows. If you suspect a water line leak outside of your house, you call the City. The Water Division will send an inspector to confirm the leak. If confirmed, he or she will leave a repair notice at the property. The repair notice is to be submitted to the City with a completed application from the homeowner for repair. The water bill for the property needing the repair must be current at the time the application is submitted to be eligible for the program. This is because the repair program is funded through \$1/month charge on the water bill. (For new water accounts that have not yet paid their first water bill, eligibility will depend on the property's water service history, and payment history of the prior water account.) Completed applications, with the repair notice, may be mailed to the City, faxed, or e-mailed. The City will notify the homeowner when the application has been received and approved. The City will then solicit bids and award the repair job to a qualified contractor. The homeowner will be notified of award and repair start date. The City will pay the contractor directly after final inspection of the repair. The City **is not responsible** for repairs of irrigation systems or branch service lines. If an irrigation system is present, the homeowner must provide documentation that the system is not the source of the leak.

The historical cost of lateral repair in the Metro area is any where from \$800 to \$1,400 dependent upon other utilities present and the path of the lateral from the meter to the home.

Legal Considerations, if any: None.

Budget Impact: If referendum vote is yes by majority, then there will be a fenced revenue fund created to account for revenue collected and that revenue would be saved for disbursement on claims filed for lateral repair.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Council pass a resolution supporting the inclusion of a question on the creation of a water lateral repair program on a referendum vote to be held in conjunction with the February 2008 primary vote in St. Clair County.