

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

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June 2, 2009

Jim Kalb, Mayor
Michael Jones, Solicitor
Honorable Council Members
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: Work Conference Session Agenda Item - Storm Water Strategic Solution Update

The lack of information or aggressive action to resolve basement flooding through a Combined Sewer Overflow/Long Term Control Plan (CSO/LTCP) and enforcement of the City of Portsmouth 2001 Storm Water Regulations sustains the deteriorating public sentiment towards the City government's ability to protect and serve our citizens. Once again I am requesting these items be discussed with the public at the earliest date. I am recommending these items be added to the next Work Conference Session and that we deviate from the rules and allow questions/comments from the public. Also, please make sure Mr. Duncan attends and be prepared to answer questions from the public and Council.

On February 23, 2009 (#09-002) I suggested to Council members to consider regular Council meetings as a platform for regular updates to help improve our City's development, transparency, and accountability to our citizens concerning various problems and strategic solutions.

On February 23, 2009 (#09-003) I requested pertinent documentations concerning the new residential construction above Seneca Drive with the entrance from the top of Old Post Road to assure compliance with applicable regulations and codified ordinances. This request came after several citizens felt harm may occur to adjacent properties from the additional storm water and potential hillside slippage. We must find a way to not deter future construction in our community and at the same time ensure our infrastructure meets our future demands.

On March 16, 2009 (#09-008) I thanked the Engineering Department for the public records supplied, which included information on the new construction project affecting the area above Seneca Drive and Old Post Road. I requested a list of projects submitted and approved through the City and the Portsmouth Planning Commission after the July 23, 2001 timeframe and for this list to indicate how the storm water runoff was addressed in accordance with the 2001 Storm Water Regulations. I have not received these records to date. The objective of the request is to identify problem areas and develop a strategy to retrofit these areas.

Also the March 16, 2009 letter (#09-008) requested an update on the status of the City of Portsmouth CSO/LTCP and any City proposed actions to prevent future basement flooding that utilized programs implemented by various other cities. On March 30, 2009, the Mayor stated an update would be forthcoming once all the information had been collected and compiled. Please update the status of the above plan and any proposed actions.

Keep in mind on March 13, 2006 (#06-019) I suggested a format change to our Work Conference Session which would encourage public participation similar to public hearings at the Ohio House of Representatives. This format would provide two-way communication with the citizens we affect and would help provide a better understanding for the solutions to our problems. Again, I am requesting consideration on the issues discussed above.

It is a reasonable request to expect local government to respond to their citizens concerns and to assure them good information and timely actions are being taken to avoid further anxiety and legal actions within our community.

If you have any additional questions or comments contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

rwm

cc: Richard Duncan, Director of Wastewater
Engineering Department
Trent Williams, Auditor
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)