

Council OKs engineering firm to create model for solving Fairview flooding issues

By Beth Mlady, Special to the Sun News

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FAIRVIEW PARK, Ohio – City council members approved an agreement with engineering firm Black and Veatch Tuesday evening that allows the company to begin modeling the sewer infrastructure and water flows for Fairview Park.

The \$126,400 contract covers the cost of preparing the project scope, coordinating the collection of data and creating a system model.

Black and Veatch issued a report to the city in November that recommended installing ultrasonic flow meters in flood-prone areas, primarily along the city's western border, as the critical first step in solving the 50-year-old problem. A skeleton model will then be generated to determine if pipe capacities are adequate, or if there are other factors negatively impacting the flows and creating flooding. That model likely will be done in mid to late summer.

Fairview Park Director of Public Service and Development Rob Berner said in an interview Tuesday that city officials and Black and Veatch are eager to begin developing a lasting solution.

"We're already working on a schedule and looking forward to what we need to get done and get this thing moving," Berner said. "We want to start the flow metering and testing in March and April. Residents may see our engineering and surveying crews out. The flow metering will be done inside the manholes."

Council passed two other related pieces of legislation Tuesday night that authorize the mayor to request proposals from qualified firms to do field investigation work, including surveying and sewer evaluations, as well as collecting data and conducting the flow monitoring. The combined cost of those two contracts, according to the ordinances, is not to exceed \$72,000.

"We're moving forward and trying to get this problem taken care of," Berner said about the flooding issue, adding that now is the best time to plan for data collection because March and April usually have the most significant measurable rain events.

A significant rainfall event, as previously defined by Black and Veatch, is one that generates overflows from the storm water system into the sanitary sewer system. Many residents have experienced multiple sewer backups into their basements during heavy storms.

A public meeting with residents, similar to one held last August that addressed flooding, will occur after all metering diagnostics are completed and a report of those findings is finalized.

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