

Overview of Town Hall Meeting on Flooding

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On Wednesday, August 20, a town hall meeting to review flooding was held at Fairview Park City Hall. There were over 100 in attendance. The topic was wet basements. At the meeting City Engineer Michael Mackay discussed the work performed on the city's collection system over the last 10 years. He talked about the efforts to reduce inflow and infiltration into the city's sanitary sewer mains. He indicated the efforts are working but not to the degree needed to reduce flooding. The common issue remains, basements are backing up with rain water and sanitary sewer back-ups. The concern of our residents is, "What is the city going to do about it?"

Service and Development Director Rob Berner later addressed the residents. He gave a brief overview of the age and condition of the sewer collection system. The sewer collection system is aging with most of the system being six decades or more old. He indicated the need for the city to begin a systemic solution to the flooding basement problems. Mayor Patton and the city administration have met with and will be contracting with an outside consultant that specializes in sewer collection systems and treatment plants in order to evaluate the size, condition, and capacity of the current system.

Director Berner also solicited the assistance of the homeowners to make the effort to remove all of their downspouts from pipes going directly into the system. He acknowledged many homes have already done so, but it only takes one or two homes on the block to have their downspouts directly connected to the sanitary sewer system to overload the sanitary sewer mains and back-up the system. He emphasized the city will continue to investigate causes and solutions to prevent basement flooding and will continue to meet with homeowners to provide consultation on efforts they can make as homeowners to reduce the possibility of basement flooding.

As a community, we are all in this together and we will all need to work together to solve this problem. It will take a combination of improvements to both the public collection system and to the types of connections on private property of the residents.