

Painesville OKs fixes

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■ City council approves \$270,000 for water line improvements

Max Reinhart

MReinhart@News-Herald.com

Twitter: @mreinhartnh

Painesville city residents now know where that extra fee on their water bill is going.

At Monday's meeting, City Council approved appropriation of \$270,000 worth of water line improvements.

Residential customers were charged an extra \$8 to \$9 per month beginning last summer to help finance continuing improvements of decaying water lines throughout the city, some of which are 90-plus years old.

The approved repairs include three separate projects. The first is an immediate replacement of a portion of line crossing Kellogg Creek just south of Route 84. The line busted earlier this year.

City Manager Rita McMahon said the line has been an issue

since it originally broke about 2½ years ago.

"A temporary repair was made but the erosion and freeze thaw in the area of the pipe continues to be a concern," McMahon said.

She also said the line is of top priority because without immediate attention, the city could not ensure reliable water flow to about 300 households in the area or maintain pressure to a portion of Concord Township, which the city supplies with water.

The project costs about \$150,000 which includes design and construction. The line also will have to be moved to maintain flow during repair.

"There's really no way for us to repair it in its current location so we need to relocate it to ensure reliability for the residents in the Concord system," McMahon said.

The second project is a \$45,000 design to upgrade water supply to the U.S. Coast Guard's station

See Painesville, Page A2

Painesville

From Page A1

adjacent to Headlands Beach State Park.

City officials said the existing 6-inch line is inadequate to meet the needs to the station's new facility.

The Coast Guard asked the city to make the improvements, which will be fully reimbursed.

"Materials, construction, even our time — the Coast Guard will reimburse," McMahon said.

Construction on that line is scheduled for 2013.

Thirdly, \$75,000 will go to design of improvements to water lines on residential streets.

As recommended by Water Superintendent George Ginnis, the repairs will take place on East Jackson Street, North St. Clair Street, East Court, Luary Drive and Rockwood Drive.

The line replacements, along with any necessary road repairs, will take place next year.

City officials said if any of the projects cost less than the budgeted amounts, other streets are lined up for water line repair as well.

Separately at the meeting, council authorized the administration to seek bids for the Shamrock Business Center bridge project.

Earlier this month, council accepted a \$1.5 million Ohio Public Works Commission loan to help finance construction of the bridge that will connect West Jackson Street to Brookstone Boulevard.

Council President Joe Hada said the sooner the bridge is completed, the sooner it will foster economic and residential growth for the city.

"Over the years, we have had people very interested in developing there but the bridge, which will provide adequate access, has not been there," Hada said.

City leaders said construction could be under way by the end of this calendar year and would take 14 to 18 months to complete.