

# Documenters

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## Utilities Committee

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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## Summary

- After much discussion on the feasibility of a two-year aggregation contract for electric power, the contract was approved. This will offer customers a fixed and more affordable rate.
- A presentation from Cleveland Division of Water and Water Pollution Control gave detailed information and basis for needed improvements and justification of future expenses.

## Follow-Up Questions

- How does Cleveland compare to other lakefront cities?
- How can a member of the public see the financial contracts discussed?

## Notes

Meeting called to order at 10 a.m. and attended by Council Members Brian Kazy (chair), Jenny Spencer (vice chair), Kevin Bishop, Deborah Gray, Kris Harsh, Michael Polensek and Danny Kelly.

Kazy said happy anniversary to his wife, thanking her and the families of public servants.

Ord. 386-2024: Amendments read into record by Kazy.

Kazy asked who would be the appropriate director for the contract. Public Utilities Director Martin Keane said it would either be the director of Finance or Public Utilities.

Bishop asked Keane to explain the impact of the two-year option in the contract with Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) if prices fall. Keane said that the 12-month and 24-month fixed rate offer the biggest benefit to the consumer. He said it is a fixed and affordable matrix.

Bishop asked if there is a risk if prices fluctuate. Keane said he believes the risk is minimal. Bishop questioned if customers can cancel and jump to another plan. An official from the Department of Public Utilities answered yes.

Gray thanked Kazy for visiting a community meeting and explaining how the aggregate rate charges affect residents. She said that many Cleveland Public Power (CPP) customers want to opt out of the program and switch to FirstEnergy.

Keane: This program is only for FirstEnergy customers.

Spencer asked about SOPEC pricing versus FirstEnergy. Keane said that SOPEC was lower.

Keane said they are looking for a two-year renewal going through August 2026.

Kazy: Customers will save more than \$200 a year.

Ordinance 386-2024 was approved.

Public comment on Ordinances 167-2024 and 373-2024

Rev. Pamela Pinkney asked:

- How will this legislation go towards ending homelessness?
- How will it impact domestic violence?
- How does the utilities cost affect police and policing?

She asked the committee to make utilities more affordable and to reach out to churches and other community groups.

Ordinance 373-2024: Seeking bid for repair to both sides of LED sign at 5251 S. Marginal Road.

Harsh asked if the sign is for public service or another reason.

Keane explained the use and purpose.

Ordinance 373-2024 was approved.

Ordinance 167-2024 concerns extending the lease for Cleveland Public Power's Eastside

Service Center at 14100 Darley Ave.

Polensek asked Commissioner of Real Estate Susanne DeGennaro to connect him with the owner of the surrounding property to set up a meeting. He said there are issues that need to be addressed.

Ordinance 167-2024 as amended was approved.

Catherine Troy, chief financial officer for the Department of Public Utilities, presented rate assessments for the Cleveland Division of Water and Water Pollution Control.

Slides showed recent rate study:

- Study goals and objectives
- Cleveland Water Division financial position
- Annual revenue requirement comparison
- Financing planning metrics
- Use of unencumbered cash
- Recommended rate plan
- Typical monthly residential bills—Cleveland (0.5mcf)
- Conclusions

Polensek to Troy: Can you give us the number of accounts for the last 20 years? Because we have lost a number of customers. Cuyahoga County is not growing in population. We need to figure out how to sell more water. Look at the development of suburbs. How far can we go? How can we market the Division of Water? We need to take advantage of the population growth in other areas.

Spencer asked what to expect as they roll out the rate changes. Keane said they've outlined a lot of information for legislation through hearings and presentations, resources and strategies to present and anticipated outcomes.

Kazy to Spencer: We make sure our region is aware and our customers are educated. It affects the whole region, not just Cleveland.

Keane: We are being as conservative as possible.

Kazy asked how many times water rates had increased in the last 10 years. Keane said four out of 10 years water rates increased.

Troy went through the slide presentation for [Water Pollution Control](#)'s rate study:

- Sewer line renewal and replacement benchmarks

- Spending per mile of pipe

- Annual revenue requirement comparison

- Financial planning metrics

- Use of unencumbered cash

- Recommended rate plan

- Typical monthly residential sewer bills

  - Collection only (0.5mfc)

- Conclusion

Troy said pipes should last 100 years. Polensek was interested in a comparison of Great Lakes cities.

Keane said it is hard to find comparisons because of different methods of billing, although there is predominant system improvement.

Meeting adjourned.

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