

The Cresco City Council met in a special worksession on March 16, 2016, at 3:00 pm at City Hall. Council Members Carman, Bouska, McCarville and McGee were present. Brenno was absent.

Angie Kolz, an engineer from WHKS, presented an explanation of what a sump pump inspection project entails and why it is beneficial to the City. The City spends a lot of money treating rain and ground water that should be discharged through the storm sewers instead of the sanitary sewer system. Especially in high rain situations, the spike in the gallons treated at the sewer plant spikes tremendously. This could force the City into increasing the size of the wastewater treatment plant to accommodate the average flow, which is increased due to the spikes during storms. The additional water pumped into the sanitary sewer by sump pumps also takes up the capacity of sewer mains and can cause sewer backups into homes and businesses.

Unfortunately, everyone is aware that sump pumps and beaver systems are not the only place that storm water gets into the sanitary sewer system. However, data from other communities that have performed sump pump inspections indicate that 5-10% have direct connections to the sanitary sewer which could account for an estimated 900,000 extra gallons per day pumped into the sanitary sewer after a significant rainfall. This could account for about 21% of the maximum wet weather flow. Council and staff unanimously agreed that the sump pump inspection program is the best starting point and most cost effective. The City has done many projects to reduce the inflow and infiltration problems and will continue to do slip lining and manhole rehabs as well.

An ordinance will be updated addressing this issue. After the ordinance is updated, an informational meeting will be available for the public explaining how the program will run and why it is necessary. There will be mailings to property owners and information made available via websites, newspapers, radio, Facebook and the local cable channel. Inspections should begin in May 2016.

The worksession was adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next regular Cresco City Council meeting will be March 21, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Cresco City Hall.

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Mayor Mark Bohle

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City Clerk Michelle Girolamo