

Council approves marketing agreement for sewer, water line warranty program

By MATT HOPF
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

Published: 7/26/2011 | Updated: 7/27/2011

The Quincy City Council approved a marketing agreement Monday night for the National League of Cities Service Line Warranty Program, which will offer warranties to Quincy residents for water and sewer lines on private property.

Under the marketing agreement, the city endorses the warranty program, which is administered by Utility Service Partners of Cannonsburg, Pa., and allows the company to use the city's name and logo on company letterhead. In return, the city will receive 10 percent of the revenue the company makes from residents.

The warranty would cover up to \$4,000 in repairs for damage to underground water and sewer lines between the city's main line to homes, often called laterals.

Costs have not been finalized, but it would range from \$4.25 to \$4.60 a month for water lines and \$5.50 to \$5.95 a month for sewer lines. Customers would have the option to buy warranties for both water and sewer lines. Utility Service Partners would be responsible for all billing and advertising for the program.

In other business, Quincy Mayor John Spring said the most of the cleanup from the June 27 storm that knocked out power to most residents should be complete by today. He said there are still some issues that need to be addressed, including trees that were partly taken down in the storm and sidewalk repairs.

"Now we have to go back -- those trees that are on city right of way -- and take those trees down, and then, of course, remove those stumps," Spring said. "We'll be in the process of doing that. It will take some time to do that."

Spring asked that residents be patient as the city forestry crew handles the tree and stump removal. Illinois Department of Transportation trucks continued to support the cleanup effort through last week, and Ameren Illinois representatives at Monday's council meeting played a four-minute highlight reel from the cleanup.

Aldermen also approved a \$600,000 short-term loan from the general fund to the Quincy Transit Lines as it waits to receive operating dollars from the state, which it receives from the federal government

The City Council also:

° Approved an ordinance that rezones 1613, 1615, 1617, 1621, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1631, 1633, 1636, 1638, and 1639 N. Fifth as single-family residential. Aldermen Virgil Goehl, D-1, and Glenda “LeXze” Mann, R-1, abstained from voting because they both own property in the neighborhood.

° Accepted the low bid of \$306,000 from Prairie State Plumbing and Heating for the water treatment plant filter control rehabilitation project. The city will be reimbursed about 53.3 percent of the cost from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

° Voted to buy a 2012 International 7400 single-axle dump truck from Prairie/Archway International Trucks for \$109,273, replacing a 1993 dump truck/snowplow. Alderman Paul Havermale, R-3, voted against the purchase.

° Tabled action on a Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation to deny the request for a variance to allow the use of a pre-existing 12-foot-tall poll sign at 1111 Maine.

° Reauthorized a link deposit investment agreement with rural banks.

° Approved a resolution to add left-turn lanes and wider turning radiuses at the intersection of Ill. 57 and York for \$38,000, using motor fuel tax funds.

° Passed an ordinance to add a fire lane and no-parking zone on Chestnut between 18th and 20th streets.

° Heard the first presentation of an ordinance to annex 1632 S. 36th into the city.

° Approved raffle requests and waived bond requirements for the Quincy Exchange Club from Friday through Sept. 10, Blessed Sacrament Catholic School from Aug. 1 to Sept. 10, and CareNet from Friday through Sept. 22.

° Approved a request by the United Way to close Fifth Street between Maine and Hampshire from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Aug. 2 for its campaign kickoff.

-- mhopf@whig.com/221-3391