Mayor Kincannon called the Special Council Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with Flynn, Price, Karpinski, Honer, and Smith present. The focus of this special meeting was to learn more about Metron and Neptune water meters.

Administrator Gates stated that applying for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) for water meters would require a formal, competitive bid. Therefore, council was encouraged to focus today on features and not prices. Specifications need to be determined so we can put the water meter project out to bid. The WSRLA loan can be for up to $700,000, would not require any money down, would have a 2.51 percent interest rate, and would involve payments twice a year.

Millard Jones from Metron-Farnier shared information on their meters and related services. Metron has been in business for 30 years. They are under the XPD umbrella. Based on a project with a similar-sized Ohio community (Sabina Village), Jones feels we will be in the $600,000 to $700,000 range. While Metron’s brochure states that their meters are 1/30th of a gallon low flow, Jones stated they are 1/50th. There is a 10-year accuracy warranty on Metron meters, which is not prorated. If a meter does not read accurately, it will be replaced. Data captured in 1-minute intervals would be fed electronically via Verizon (triple redundancy network) into the cloud through a virtual private network (VPN) daily between 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Cell modems are inside the meters. The initial data package is 10 years. Purchase of an additional data package would be needed after 10 years; that is estimated to cost $8 per meter. Metron’s portal would provide the Village utility department and the consumers with visibility to usage at no additional charge. Notifications can be set up for various scenarios such as no use and back flow. Metron’s meters are manufactured in France. They have tamper-proof registers. The rotary pistons in the meters result in low-flow accuracy and their ability to maintain it. The rotary pistons are protected inside the meters from debris in the water. Older meters degrade faster. Capturing low-flow usage results in more accurate billings. The life expectancy of a Metron meter is 20 years. Installation could be managed by the Village or by Metron. Regardless, Metron would train the installer. It would take approximately 3 months to complete installation of meters throughout the village. Installation issues would be visible via the software (e.g., installed backward). Metron was the first to market the transmission of meter data via cellular service. Jones was asked to provide references.

At 2:06 p.m., a break was taken. The meeting resumed at 2:30 p.m.

Ohio Sales Manager Kelly Byrd and Territory Manager Eric Ludrowsky from Neptune Equipment Company (aka NECO) were the next water meter company to present. Byrd feels our needs are new software (current software no longer will be supported in October 2025) and a new reader (new reader for new software). The last time Byrd and Ludrowsky were here, it took under an hour for them to read all of our meters via the MRX vehicle reader. The newer readers are Bluetooth compatible and send data to the cloud. Byrd stated that events such as leaks and back flows currently are sent to us and flagged in the software with orange flags. We currently do not see such events. Older transmitters retain 96 days (quarter) of data, but the old software is not good for seeing data and does not retain older data. The new software will show us various events. Newer readers have a 10-15-year life span. Neptune meters are good for 1.5 to 2 million gallons, which is roughly 20 years for the average home and have a 1.5%+/- accuracy, which meets American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards. They expect us to see a 3-4% improvement in billable water by replacing meters. The oldest meters in the Village (25 years or more) should be replaced. Byrd confirmed that the registers were easily removable but stated that should populate an event flag in the software (old and new). Neptune has other meter models that are tamper resistant and have guaranteed accuracy that do not need to be calibrated. Ultrasonic is more accurate than their other model; however, it is better for poor water quality locations, which is not an issue in our village. The ultrasonic units have batteries that are not replaceable. Transmitters can be separate from the registers (10-year warranty) or combined (aka integrated; 20-year warranty with 10 years full and prorated after). We already have 265 of the newer Neptune meters in use throughout the village. An integrated R900 unit ($288) with the Neptune 360 software subscription ($45 for 10 years), customer portal ($55 for 10 years), and gateway (timely data - $3) would cost approximately $391. The software typically lasts 20 years. There are 3 annual maintenance options for the gateway - $750 for service, $1,000 for hardware, and $2,000 for service and hardware – all of which have a 1-year warranty. Neptune has an installation division. They estimated that it would cost approximately to install each $100. Training would be provided to the billing and operational staff members along with training for future employees. Online training is included annually. The software cost is based on the number of meters read annually and would be in the $1.25 (more than 2,500 meters) to $1.50 (1 – 2,500 meters) range.

There being no further business, **Price moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 5 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:42 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gary R. Kincannon, Mayor Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer