

**City of Fairfield  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting of City Council  
September 13, 2021**

**Council-Manager Briefing**

Automated Metering

Mayor Miller called the briefing to order at 6:00 PM. Councilmembers present: Leslie Besl, Dale Paullus, Terry Senger, Tim Abbott, Mark Scharringhausen, Chad Oberson and Bill Woeste.

Staff members present: Don Bennett, Alisha Wilson, Steve Wolterman, Adam Sackenheim, Matt Young, Greg Kathman, Tiphonie Mays, Jake Burton, Ben Mann, Steve Maynard and Carol Mayhall.

Public Utilities Director Sackenheim presented the Automated Metering presentation. See attached slides.

**Business Meeting Call to Order**

Mayor Miller called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember Besl led in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Councilmembers present included:

| <b>Attendee Name</b> | <b>Title</b>             | <b>Status</b> | <b>Arrived</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Mark Scharringhausen | Council Member at Large  | Present       |                |
| Chad Oberson         | Council Member at Large  | Present       |                |
| Bill Woeste          | Council Member at Large  | Present       |                |
| Leslie Besl          | Council Member, 1st Ward | Present       |                |
| Dale Paullus         | Councilmember, 2nd Ward  | Present       |                |
| Terry Senger         | Councilmember, 3rd Ward  | Present       |                |
| Tim Abbott           | Council Member, 4th Ward | Present       |                |
| Steve Miller         | Mayor                    | Present       |                |

**Agenda Modifications**

None.

## **Executive Session Requests**

Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Paullus, moved for Executive Session for the following reasons:

1. Purchase of property for public use;
2. Employment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, dismissal of a public employee;
3. Confidential information relative to the business plans of an applicant for economic development assistance.

Motion carried 7-0.

## **Special Presentations and Citizen Comments**

### **a. Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Update**

Kert Radel, President of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, gave an update regarding how the Chamber was able to assist local businesses throughout the pandemic so far. He thanked the City for its support of their efforts.

### **b. George Fraley, 5771 Chesterfield Court**

Mr. Fraley addressed Council regarding city practices that he feels have unfair repercussions on senior citizens. Specifically, he referenced the \$40/month minimum utilities charge and the mandatory income tax return filing for those with no earned income. Mayor Miller referred him to Finance Director Burton and Public Utilities Director Sackenheim. Finance Director Burton stated that his department is already reviewing the mandatory filing requirement and should have an update to that soon.

## **Public Hearing(s)**

None.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021 and Special Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2021 were approved as written and submitted.

## **OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS**

### **Community & Public Relations Committee**

*Dale Paullus, Chair; Leslie Besl, Vice Chair; Terry Senger, Member*

### **Development Services Committee**

*Bill Woeste, Chair; Tim Abbott, Vice Chair; Mark Scharringhausen, Member*

### **Parks, Recreation and Environment Committee**

*Leslie Besl, Chair; Dale Paullus, Vice Chair; Tim Abbott, Member*

### **Public Safety Committee**

*Mark Scharringhausen, Chair; Terry Senger, Vice Chair; Dale Paullus, Member*

### **Public Works Committee**

*Chad Oberson, Chair; Mark Scharringhausen, Vice Chair; Bill Woeste, Member*

## Public Utilities Committee

*Terry Senger, Chair; Chad Oberson, Vice Chair; Leslie Besl, Member*

Ordinance to amend sections 921.04 and 925.05(c) of Ordinance No. 166-84 of the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio, relative to the Licensure and Bonding Requirements for Water and Sewer Servicers

### Recommendation:

It is recommended that City Council authorize amendments to the City's licensing and bonding requirements for water and sewer servicers under Chapters 921.04 and 925.05(c) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Fairfield, Ohio.

Councilmember Senger presented the second reading of this ordinance.

|                |                       |                                |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>SECOND READING</b> | <b>Next: 9/27/2021 7:00 PM</b> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|

## Finance & Budget Committee

*Tim Abbott, Chair; Bill Woeste, Vice Chair; Chad Oberson, Member*

### NEW BUSINESS

**Councilmember Besl, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, moved to read all New Business by title only. Motion carried 7-0.**

## Community & Public Relations Committee

*Dale Paullus, Chair; Leslie Besl, Vice Chair; Terry Senger, Member*

Simple Motion: Motion to suspend the City Manager search until January 1, 2022

SIMPLE MOTION NO. 15-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Dale Paullus, Councilmember, 2nd Ward                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

## Development Services Committee

*Bill Woeste, Chair; Tim Abbott, Vice Chair; Mark Scharringhausen, Member*

Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio, Section 1141.02, the City of Fairfield, Ohio, Zoning Map by approving the concept plan for the Benzing Planned Unit Development.

### Recommendation:

It is recommended that City Council have a first reading on this item at the September 13, 2021 meeting and set the joint public hearing date for September 27, 2021.

Councilmember Woeste presented the first reading of this ordinance and set the joint public hearing date for September 27, 2021.

**RESULT: FIRST READING Next: 9/27/2021 7:00 PM**

Ordinance to amend Sections 1133.01 (63.2), 1169.02 (e), 1173.02 (b) and 1173.03 and add new Sections 1133.01 (79.1) and 1173.02 (f) of Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio, relative to definitions, M-1 Industrial Park District Conditional Uses, M-2 General Industrial District Conditional Uses and Accessory Uses.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council have a first reading on this ordinance at the September 13, 2021 meeting and set a joint public hearing date for September 27, 2021.

Councilmember Woeste presented the first reading of this ordinance and set the joint public hearing date for September 27, 2021.

**RESULT: FIRST READING Next: 9/27/2021 7:00 PM**

**Public Safety Committee**

*Mark Scharringhausen, Chair; Terry Senger, Vice Chair; Dale Paullus, Member*

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Scharringhausen presented the first reading of this ordinance.

**RESULT: CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:** Mark Scharringhausen, Council Member at Large  
**SECONDER:** Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward  
**AYES:** Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott

Ordinance to authorize the Acting City Manager to accept the AFG Fire Prevention and Safety Grant in the amount of \$16,635.50

ORDINANCE NO. 96-21. APPROVED 7-0.

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:** Mark Scharringhausen, Council Member at Large  
**SECONDER:** Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large  
**AYES:** Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott

**Public Works Committee**

*Chad Oberson, Chair; Mark Scharringhausen, Vice Chair; Bill Woeste, Member*

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Oberson presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Woeste, Council Member at Large                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to declare seventeen (17) city motor vehicles and pieces of city equipment as surplus and authorize the Acting City Manager to execute an agreement with GovDeals.com to sell the motor vehicles and pieces of equipment.

ORDINANCE NO. 97-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Oberson presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Dale Paullus, Councilmember, 2nd Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to authorize the Acting City Manager to enter into a contract with Majors Enterprises of Monroe, Ohio for the 2021 Headwall Replacement and Culvert Extension – Starlight Estates and declaring an emergency

**Recommendation:**

The staff recommends that City Council authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract with Majors Enterprises of Monroe, Ohio for the 2021 Starlight Estates Culvert Extension improvements Project.

It is further recommended that City Council authorize and direct the preparation of legislation for the appropriation of funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund for this project.

ORDINANCE NO. 98-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Oberson presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Woeste, Council Member at Large                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to authorize the Acting City Manager to execute and file the application for financial assistance and enter into an agreement with Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Issue 1 for a grant to fund a portion of the 2022 Pleasant Avenue Improvement Project and declaring an emergency.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council authorize the preparation of legislation authorizing the City Manager to execute and file the application for financial assistance, and enter into an agreement with OPWC for a grant to fund a portion of the 2022 Pleasant Avenue Improvement Project.

ORDINANCE NO. 99-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Terry Senger, Councilmember, 3rd Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Oberson presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Woeste, Council Member at Large                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to authorize the Acting City Manager to execute and file the application for financial assistance and enter into an agreement with Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Issue 1 for a grant to fund a portion of the 2023 Route 4 Urban Paving Improvement Project and declaring an emergency.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council authorize the preparation of legislation authorizing the City Manager to execute and file the application for financial assistance, and enter into an agreement with OPWC for a grant to fund a portion of the 2023 Route 4 Urban Paving Improvement Project.

ORDINANCE NO. 100-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Chad Oberson, Council Member at Large                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

**Public Utilities Committee**

*Terry Senger, Chair; Chad Oberson, Vice Chair; Leslie Besl, Member*

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Senger presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Terry Senger, Councilmember, 3rd Ward                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Dale Paullus, Councilmember, 2nd Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to authorize the Acting City Manager to enter into a contract with Ovivo USA, LLC for emergency repair of critical treatment equipment at the City's sewer plant and declaring an emergency.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ovivo USA, LLC and appropriate funding in the amount of \$295,000.00 for the emergency repair of critical treatment equipment at the City's sewer plant. Rules suspension is requested in order to expedite the project.

ORDINANCE NO. 101-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Terry Senger, Councilmember, 3rd Ward                           |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

**Finance & Budget Committee**

*Tim Abbott, Chair; Bill Woeste, Vice Chair; Chad Oberson, Member*

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this resolution.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Leslie Besl, Council Member, 1st Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

**Recommendation:**

The resolution would authorize the necessary tax levies to be collected for tax year 2021 collected during budget year 2022 to the Butler County Auditor.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Dale Paullus, Councilmember, 2nd Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to adopt new section 143.09 of Chapter 143 of Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio relative to age requirements for Police Personnel

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council adopt Ordinance 143.09 extending the age limit for original appointment as a Police Officer for the Fairfield Police Department up to age 45 to those with prior Police service credit.

Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Besl, moved to suspend the second and third readings. Motion carried 7-0. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Woeste, moved to adopt. Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 102-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                |                      |                                |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>FIRST READING</b> | <b>Next: 9/27/2021 7:00 PM</b> |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Dale Paullus, Councilmember, 2nd Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to establish salaries and hourly rates for certain salaried and hourly employees of the City of Fairfield, Ohio and to authorize and limit the numbers and types of certain employees, to repeal Ordinance No. 78-21 and all amendments thereto and declaring an emergency.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council approve this Ordinance, suspending the rules and declaring an emergency to allow for the expeditious implementation of the new rate for the position described above.

ORDINANCE NO. 103-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Woeste, Council Member at Large                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Woeste, Council Member at Large                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to Amend Ordinance no. 109-20 Entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021." - Supplemental Appropriations

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council authorize and direct the preparation of legislation amending the annual operating budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 104-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Dale Paullus, Councilmember, 2nd Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Woeste, Council Member at Large                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 109-20 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021."

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading of this Ordinance and adopt the appropriations listed above.

ORDINANCE NO. 105-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Leslie Besl, Council Member, 1st Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Motion to Suspend Second and Third Readings

Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Woeste, Council Member at Large                            |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 109-20 entitled “An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021.”

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading of this Ordinance and adopt the appropriations listed above.

ORDINANCE NO. 106-21. APPROVED 7-0.

|                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Tim Abbott, Council Member, 4th Ward                            |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Dale Paullus, Councilmember, 2nd Ward                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Scharringhausen, Oberson, Woeste, Besl, Paullus, Senger, Abbott |

**Meeting Schedule**

Clerk Wilson read the following meeting schedule:

- A. Monday, September 27 - Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM
- B. Tuesday, October 12 - Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM
- C. Monday, October 25 - Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

**Executive Session of Council (if needed)**

Council recessed to Executive Session at 7:40 PM.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor's Approval

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_

# Automated Water Metering

Council-Manager Briefing  
September 13, 2021



**FAIRFIELD**  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Adam Sackenheim  
Director – Public Utilities

# Outline:

1. Mission Statement
2. Recent Utility Initiatives
3. Water Metering in Fairfield
4. Automated Metering Technologies
5. Fairfield Metering Projects
6. System Capabilities, Benefits & ROI
7. Recommendations
8. Questions

# 1. Mission

- Protect Public Health
- Protect Public Safety
- Protect the Environment

## 2. Recent Utility Initiatives



Attachment: 09132021 AMI presentation Council-Mgr Briefing (2979 : Automated Metering)





Water Main Replacement Projects:  
Pleasant Avenue; Route 4; Ross Road;  
Donald Drive; Seward Road; Resor &  
Winton Road



Attachment: 09132021 AMI presentation Council-Mgr Briefing (2979 : Automated Metering)















# 3. Water Metering in Fairfield



*Duke Energy website; 2021*

- Last City-wide meter change-out: ~2002
  - ~13,700 meters
    - 85% are inside homes / businesses
    - 85% are “touch read”; 15% radio







NEIGHBOR YESTERDAY • 0.2 MI

ring.com

Man in yard. ?axe?

14 5 Comments 1308 Views

Helpful Comment Share

Attachment: 09132021 AMI presentation Council-Mgr Briefing (2979 : Automated Metering)

## 4. Automated Metering Technologies

- Automatic meter reading (AMR) – “drive-by”
  - One way communication
  - Limited data
- Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI):
  - Two-way communication



# Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

- Communication options:
  - Cellular - \$\$
  - “Internet of Things” / mesh network - *unproven*
  - Radio
    - Non-licensed frequency - “free” spread spectrum
    - FCC-licensed frequency\*

## Benefits of licensed frequency:

Minimal interference or spectrum crowding; stronger signals; increased transmission range; low noise levels

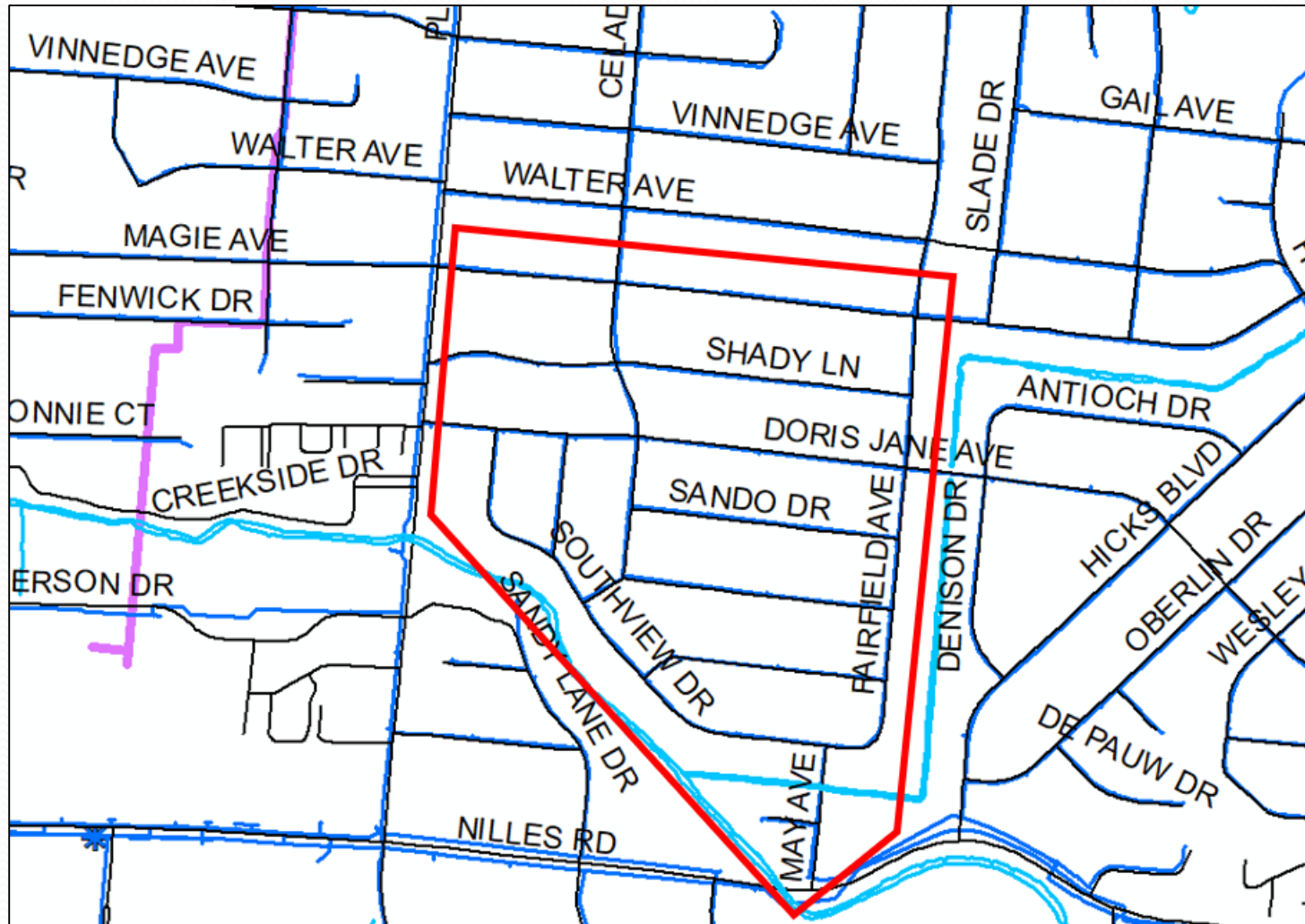
# Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

- “Master Meter - ALLEGRO” AMI System:
  - Meters have built-in end-point transmitters (UTG)
    - NO wires
    - Most effective in “inside” sets
  - Fixed base communication platform with FCC-licensed frequency
    - True 2-way communication capabilities
  - Robust meter data management software (Harmony)



A detailed map of a suburban area in 2020, showing the layout of Route 113. The map is color-coded by land use: green for parks/open spaces, blue for water bodies, and various shades of yellow, orange, and red for residential and commercial zones. Major roads are labeled, including Holden Blvd, Standen Blvd, State Rt 4 Bypass, Quality Blvd, Seward Rd, Thunder Blvd, Eastpoint Blvd, DDC Wy, Service Dr, Eway Dr, Sable Dr, Ansley Dr, Mack Rd, Adams Cir, ALEC Dr, Ross Rd, Kay Dr, Richard Dr, Mel Dr, S Gilmore Rd, Venus Ln, Jupiter Dr, Ewing Dr, Fawn Dr, and Dixie Hwy. Three specific locations are highlighted with blue callout boxes and labeled: 'AMI Repeater' (top center), 'AMI Repeater' (middle left), and 'AMI Repeater' (bottom center). A black callout box labeled 'AMI Base Station' points to a location on Seward Rd. A large white box at the bottom of the map contains the text 'Route 113 (2020)'.





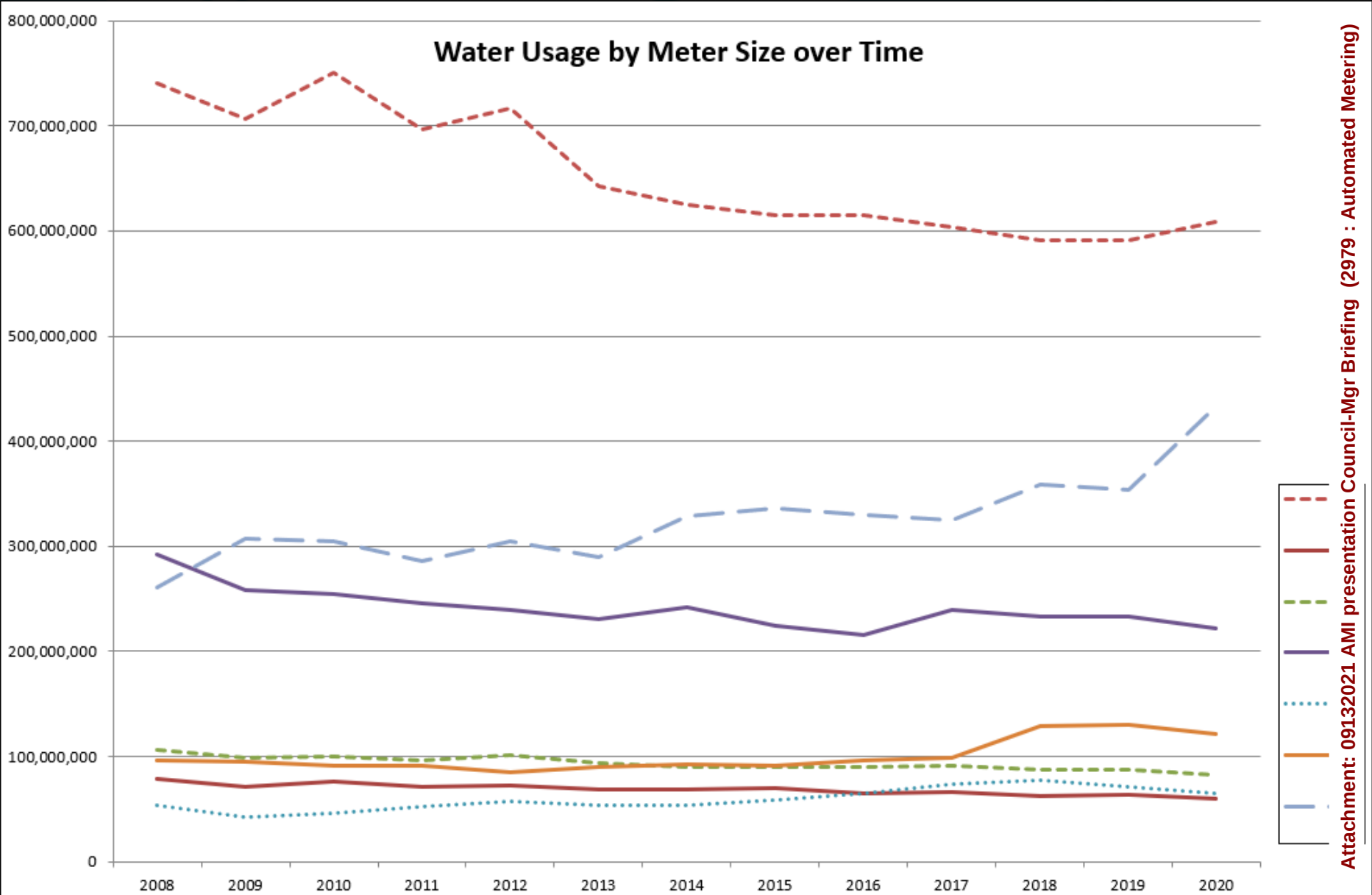
Route 301

## 6. System Capabilities, Benefits, and ROI

- Improved metering accuracy = increased revenue
- Real-time system data
- Enhanced customer service
- Lost water detection
- Workforce management

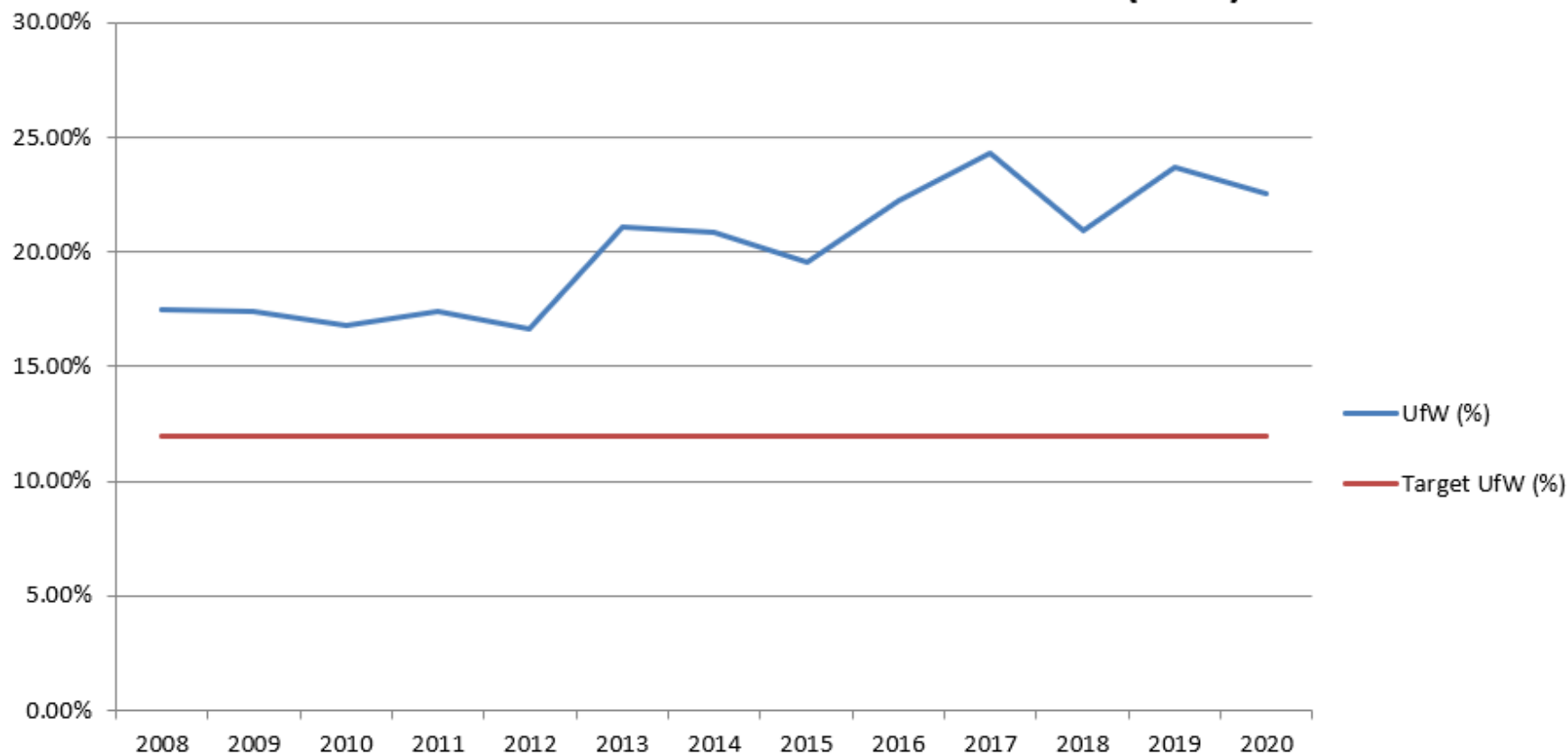
# Improved metering accuracy = increased revenue

- 3.5% increase in accuracy
  - ~\$525,000 additional revenue
- Why is this important?



Attachment: 09132021 AML presentation Council-Mgr Briefing (2979) : Automated Metering

## Fairfield Water Division: Unaccounted for Water (UfW) over time



# Real-time system data; enhanced customer service; lost water detection

- Hourly water consumption data, available on demand
- Real-time alerts
  - Leaks
  - Negative consumption
  - Backflow
  - Inactive meter
  - Tamper alerts



<https://www.harmonymdm.com/CityMind/Pages/MainDashboard.aspx>



Search for Customers, Locations, Meters, Account No



harmony™



35

Manual

Dashboard

Customer Care

Meters

GIS

Work Orders

Fixed Network

Administrative



Customer Location M

Meter ID 00002448989

Back New Search Previous Meter Next Meter

|               |             |                 |        |                  |                              |                     |                     |                |                   |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Meter ID      | 00002448989 | Account Number  | 103518 | Customer Name    | WITHOUT A DOUBT TRUCK REPAIR | Last Read (Gallons) | 184564              | Email          |                   |
| Serial Number | 212006275   | Location Number | 103518 | Location Address | 3240PRODUCTION DRIVE         | Last Read Time      | 09/07/2021 12:31 PM | Mobile Phone   | (513) 931-3900    |
| Service Type  | Water       | Meter Size      | 1 Inch | Mailing Address  | WITHOUT A DOUBT TR           | Status              | Leak Alarm          | Location Notes | 1WAT -FRONT KITCH |

Dashboard

Period: Monthly Daily Hourly From: 08/07/2021 To: 09/07/2021 View chart

Meter Details

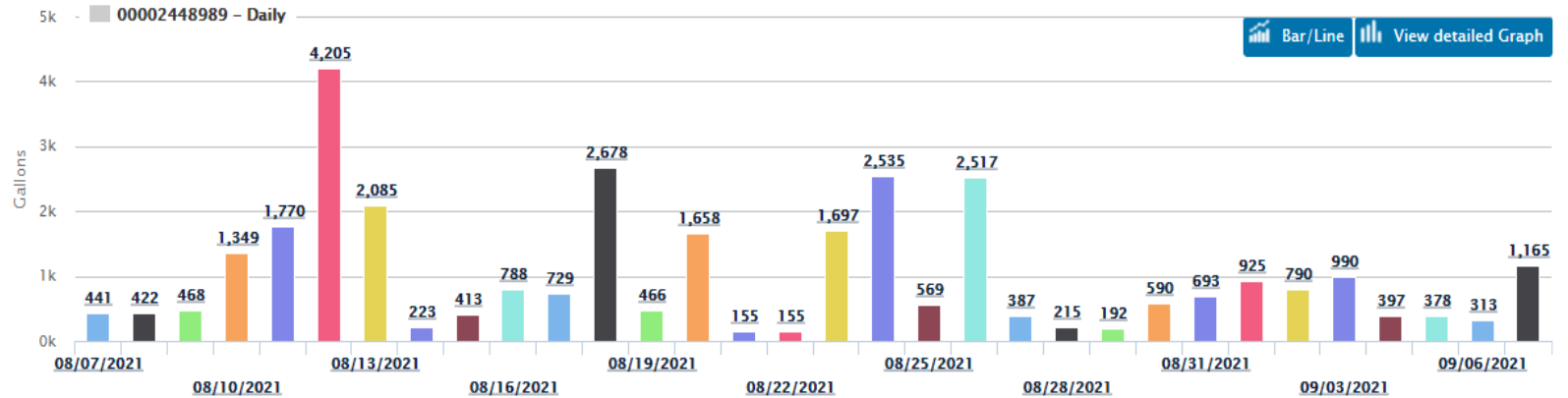
Alerts

Related Entities

Consumption

Charts

Events



On-Line



Change Out



Manual Reading Entry



Events



Upload Image



GIS



Alerts Report



Consumption Report



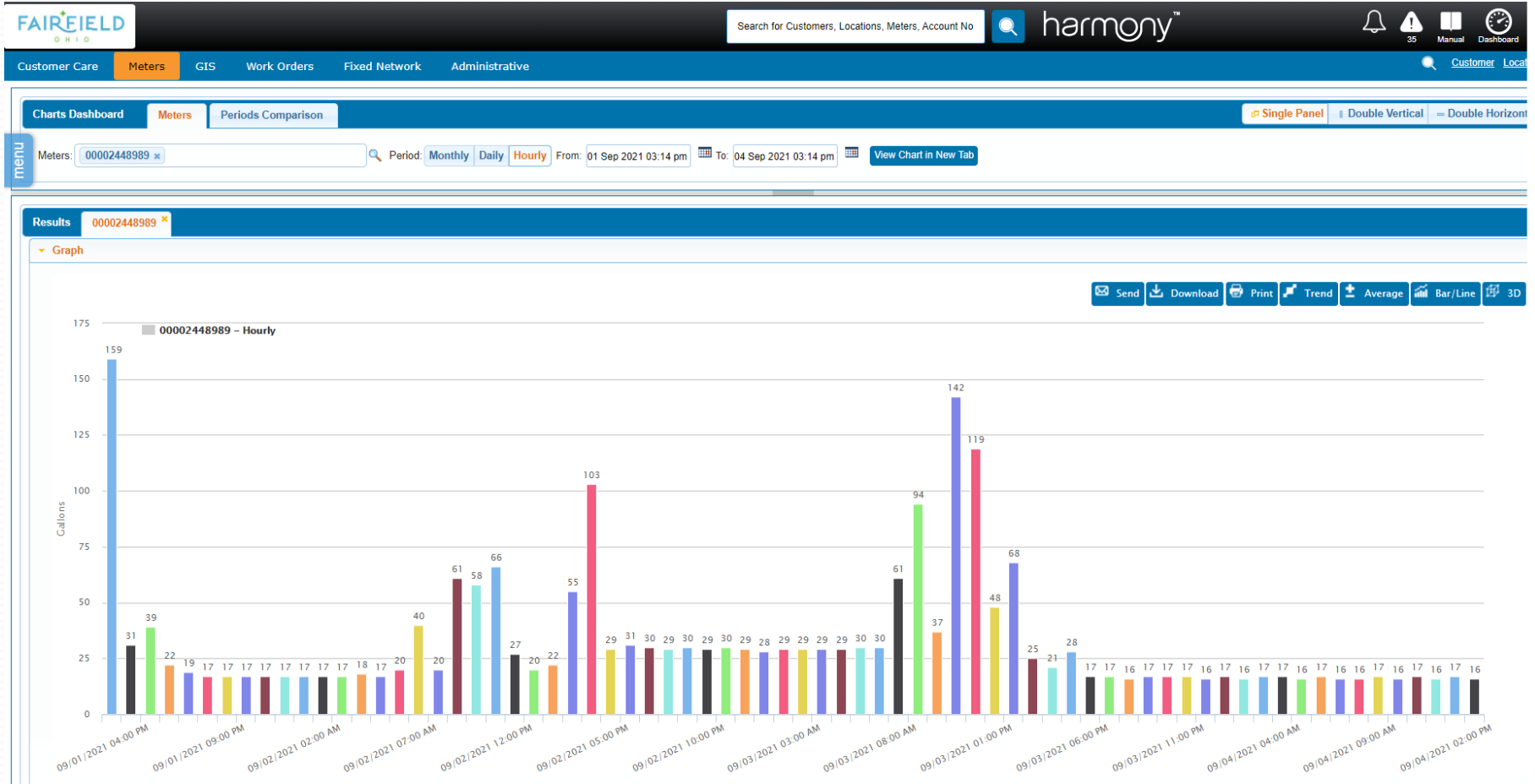
Additional Reports



Send Email



Print



# Workforce management

- R.I.F of one meter reader
  - \$100,000 / year annual savings
- Transition of remaining two meter readers to OMWs
  - Additional staff will enable more proactive system maintenance (valve exercising; hydrant flushing; etc)
- Elimination of time-intensive work orders
  - 2020: ~2,400 'read in/read out' and 're-read' orders
  - Emphasis on proactive system maintenance

# Return on Investment (ROI)

- ~\$5 million turn-key project
  - 2WT<sub>17</sub>: \$2M
  - 2WW<sub>14</sub>: \$2M
- \$625,000/year in new revenue and new savings
  - Cash financed: ROI ~8 years; or
  - New Debt\*
    - 10 year note; 2.0% interest rate
    - \$550,000 / year in debt payments

# 7. Recommendations

- Bid and award turn-key project for installation of smart meters and AMI system for entire City: Q2 2022
  - Project may include customer portal
- Work with selected contractor for proper notifications to customers about project: Q3 2022
- Project schedule:
  - Project commencement: Q4 2022
  - Project completion: Q2 2023

# 8. Questions

