City of Knoxville Stormwater Utility

June 6, 2016

What is Stormwater?

- Stormwater is rain or snowmelt that is prevented from naturally soaking into the ground
- Impervious surfaces such as structures and paving cause this water to flow
- Water flows present problems, such as:
  - Flooding
  - Erosion
  - Surface Water Pollution
  - Displaced Groundwater

Stormwater System

- A Stormwater System is comprised of several components, including:
  - Pipes
  - Culverts
  - Intakes
  - Creeks, Rivers, and Streams
- All these components are important and require maintenance

Storm vs. Sanitary

- The City currently operates a Sanitary Sewer Utility to handle water that needs to be treated
- Sanitary Utility Charges help maintain a healthy and viable system
- The City also maintains a Stormwater Sewer System, but without a Utility in place
- Without Stormwater Sewer Utility Charges the System is not adequately maintained, and may jeopardize other City services and infrastructure

Why a Utility?

- Utility Charges are used to fund specific services, revenues collected go directly to system maintenance
- Continued development increases Stormwater challenges, so a utility becomes increasingly important
- Approximately 100 communities in Iowa have Stormwater Utilities and more are being added all the time
- Knoxville faces its own issues

How are Utility Charges calculated?

- Staffs proposal is outlined as follows:
- Charges will be collected as part of the Water and Sewer bill
- Single family homes will be charged $4 per month and multifamily properties will pay $2 per unit per month
- A survey of Knoxville has shown an average of 3,034 square feet of impervious surface per residence, this is called an equivalent residential unit (ERU)

How are Utility Charges calculated?

- Non-residential properties impervious surface has been measured and divided by the ERU to establish a charge
- Maximum monthly charges are set by property type
  - Industrial Properties are capped at $150 per month
  - Commercial Properties are capped at $75 per month
  - Schools and Churches are capped at $35 per month
- Properties with City approved Stormwater features have lowered monthly maximums

Moving Forward

- If City Council approved, the Utility would begin in the coming months
- Collected charges would be used to increase preventative maintenance of the Utility and to repair existing problems