

# 2017 South Bend Common Council

Tim Scott, 1st District

*Council President*

Oliver J. Davis, 6th District

*Vice-President*

Gavin Ferlic, At Large

*Committee of the Whole Chair*

Regina Williams-Preston, 2nd District

Randy Kelly, 3rd District

Jo Broden, 4th District

Dr. David Varner, 5th District

Oliver J. Davis, 6th District

Karen L. White, At Large

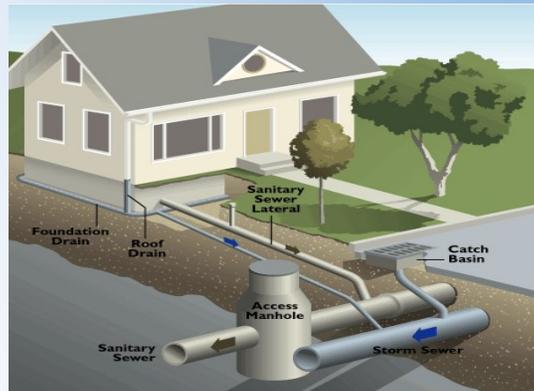
Kareemah Fowler  
City Clerk

Bob Palmer  
Council Attorney



The Utilities Committee reviews all proposed rate and charge increases filed by the City Administration.

The Common Council is to review every two (2) years "all rates and charges of the waterworks" pursuant to § 17-48 of the *City Code*. The City Administration is to provide "all pertinent data needed by the Common Council on or before June 1st".



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## Utilities Committee

South Bend  
Common Council  
4th Floor County-City Building  
227 W. Jefferson Blvd  
Downtown South Bend

# Utilities Committee South Bend Common Council 2017



**"Oversees the activities of all enterprise entities including but not limited to the Bureau of Waterworks, Bureau of Sewers and all related matters"**



**Dr. David Varner**

5th District

Chairperson



**Oliver J. Davis**

6th District

Vice-Chairperson



**Randy Kelly**

3rd District

Council Member



**Regina Williams-**

**Preston**

2nd District

Council Member



Utilities Committee meetings are governed by the Indiana Open Door Law, *Indiana Code* § 5-14-1.5, which requires 48-hour notice prior to a committee meeting being held. Meeting minutes are maintained in the Office of the City Clerk.



## Bureau of Sewers

The City of South Bend maintains **525 miles** of storm and sanitary sewers; and repairs sewer mains, catch basins, and manholes.

## Division of Waste Water

South Bend's wastewater treatment plant is located at 3113 Riverside Drive.

## Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

The Utilities Committee is proactively meeting to work to have the City's CSO Project modified. Currently it would be the **largest expenditure of taxpayer dollars** in the history of the City of South Bend.

On **December 29, 2011**, the US Attorney's Office & the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the **City of South Bend** agreed to make an **estimated \$509.5 million** worth of improvements to its combined sewer system (CSO).

The **Consent Decree** entered in the US District Court **requires South Bend to implement a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) by calendar year 2031.**

By way of comparison, in 2014, the EPA announced that **Mishawaka's Consent Decree includes a 20 year period to complete an estimated \$132.1 million** of CSO improvements. The City of Mishawaka recently announced that tax increment finance (TIF) dollars will be used to fund part of their CSO project.

The projected cost to City of South Bend residents when the CSO improvement cost is adjusted for inflation, **\$667 million.** The Utilities Committee is also looking into funding part of South Bend's project with TIF dollars.

On **February 10, 2015**, the City's Board of Public Works entered into an agreement with MWH Americas, Inc. to re-evaluate the City's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for the purpose of identifying "significant cost-savings for the City". Once the best solutions are found, the alternatives would be negotiated with EPA and IDEM resulting in a new LTCP and a modified Consent Decree, as the City officials focus on savings taxpayer dollars.



## Sewer & Water Rates and Charges

In 2016, the City Administration was required to file new proposed sewage rates per § 17-21 of the City Code. Past City Administrations have requested sewer rate increases of 24% in 2003, 29% in 2005, 15% in 2007, 11% in 2009 and 9% in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014-2016. The sewer rates are to be based on the "quantity of water used on or in the property measured by the water meter plus a base charge based on the size of the water meter installed". Meters are read monthly and users are billed monthly. A heavy demand surcharge is addressed in § 17-23 of the City Code.

South Bend's Water Works rates and charges were last adjusted in 2006 and are found in § 17-45 of the City Code. The Utilities Committee will be calling for a detailed update this year from the City Administration.

