



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure,
M. White

Members Absent: D. Everhart

Staff Present: A. Price, D. Stoneback

Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 10, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Shure moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bova.

The minutes were approved unanimously, 6-0.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency benchmarking initiative – progress report on ordinance implementation plan

Mr. Stoneback reported that the website page for the Benchmarking Ordinance has been published on the City's website and building owners can now submit their data to the City via Portfolio Manager. Building owners have been utilizing the 311 call center, the exemption forms and the email address benchmarking@cityofevanston.org to ask questions, and express complaints and concerns. So far, the City has received 10-15 inquiries. Vicki Biner, the Water Billing Coordinator, has found a way to temporarily aggregate water usage for buildings that have more than one meter. Eventually different software that allows for this to be done automatically will be needed. Nicor has been working on developing a plan to provide the data needed but, thus far they have not had success. As a result, Evanston might have to provide an exception for Nicor actual usage and use the default information that is available in Portfolio Manager.

4. STAFF REPORTS

a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2017 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There was a power outage on March 2 due to underground failure, a windstorm on March 8 that caused several power outages, and a broken tree

limb on primary wires on March 10 that caused power outages. All other outages were scheduled to perform improvements.

Basement flooding was relatively low in March even though it has been a relatively rainy season.

There were no water main breaks in March.

There were the normal number of Sewer Service Repair permits obtained, and no Water Service Repair permits obtained in March.

The RFP for engineering services has been out for the 30" Downtown Feeder Main Rehabilitation project and proposals will be received on April 25. Bids were received and came in well below budget for the Water Main Replacement project, and recommendation to award will be made at the next Council meeting. The RFP is out for the Retail Water Meter Replacement Program and work will start soon. The Plant Reliability Improvements project is moving along well. The City has had several meetings with Northwestern University to coordinate construction constraints for the Treated Water Storage Replacement project. Concrete pads have been poured for new chemical storage and equipment, and a new staging area was prepared which will be used for this and future projects. Everything is moving along at an appropriate pace.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that Skokie has not signed the amendment to extend their current contract for a three month period yet, and he is scheduled to meet with them on April 11. He said that Lincolnwood has asked for additional information in order to prepare a memo to present to their board on Evanston's proposed offer.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Further consideration of community aggregation future

Mr. Nieuwsma provided a power point presentation for the Commission's review and stated that as far as the Climate Action Plan is concerned it is vital that the City continues with community aggregation with renewable energy. He said that the City Council has endorsed community aggregation on three separate occasions in the past, has unanimously passed the Climate Action Plan and is committed to reducing Evanston's carbon footprint. Mr. Stoneback said that an RFP will be issued on April 24. He will receive indicative pricing on May 29, and would like to meet with the Commission before he receives actionable pricing and goes to council on June 26.

b. Status of street lighting study RFP

Mr. Stoneback said that the City has received proposals from nine consulting firms. An in-house committee has reviewed the proposals and narrowed it down to two firms. The Committee will be interviewing the two firms today and he will make a recommendation to the City Council on April 24.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

a. Forthcoming Public Works Agency activities relative to the Utilities Commission

Mr. Stoneback announced that "Clean Up, Evanston!" is scheduled for April 22, and public tours of the Water Treatment Facility are scheduled for May 13.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant, Public Works Agency