



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, May 12, 2017, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

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

Members Absent: D. Everhart, D. Lanyon

Staff Present: A. Price, D. Stoneback

Presiding Member: J. Nieuwsma

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 14, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

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

The minutes were approved unanimously, 5-0.

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 implementation plan is going well. As of May 10 staff had called or e-mailed each building owner or manager of the type 1 buildings that have to comply this year to confirm that they had received the City's notification and are moving toward compliance. The majority of them indicated that they have begun tracking and collecting data. He has received a few anecdotal reports that building owners and managers have successfully requested and obtained consolidated whole-building gas usage from Nicor, which was thought might have been a problem. There are three more additional training dates scheduled for May 25, June 6, and June 15. All City building data has been updated into Energy Star Portfolio by Intern, Jesse Vega Perkins, who has done a great job, and the data is currently being verified by another City employee. The City has not received any complaints from owners or managers of buildings governed by the ordinance since notifications were sent out in March. The website portal that was received with the new AMI system will no longer be supported by the vendor as of the end of June. The vendor is switching the portal that is going to be used, and Mr. Stoneback worked with the vendor to provide support for the new portal free of charge in 2017, and then the City will begin paying the maintenance fee in 2018.

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 were a good number of power outages in April, but the vast majority of the outages were scheduled to perform improvements.

All basement backups that occurred in April were determined to be private lateral issues.

At Mr. Nieuwsma's request, Mr. Stoneback will investigate how backups or other issues that are reported to the City via 911 rather than 311 are recorded.

There was one water main break in April and no shear breaks.

There were several Sewer Repair Permits obtained in April, and only one Water Service Repair permit obtained.

An improvement projects status update report was provided to the Commission. Mr. Stoneback explained the updates in detail for each project, and stated that all projects are moving along well. He noted that the CMMS software has been purchased, and the kickoff meeting will be held at the end of this month. The City is currently interviewing for a CMMS Specialist to lead the phased implementation through 2019.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City has sent a revised proposal to Lincolnwood and have not heard back from them yet. The City is still in negotiations with Skokie to renew their contract.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Progress toward the next contract for community aggregation

Mr. Stoneback said that an RFP was issued on April 24, and he planned on taking the recommendation for award to the June 26 council meeting. However, between the 21-day notice to opt out and the 18-days needed for ComEd to switch residents over, the recommendation to award would need to be taken to the June 12 council meeting. The City will receive the proposals on May 30 and he has two options: a) to make the June 12 council meeting the Legal Department would either have to work frantically reviewing the contracts and making modifications, or b) he spoke with Homefield and they will hold the price for another month so he can have an extension on the current contract for another month, through September, which would allow him to go to council on the original schedule. He will need to speak with the Legal Department to see which option they would prefer.

b. Results of City Council action on April 24 on the street lighting study RFP and next steps

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that Christopher Burke Engineering, Ltd. was awarded the street light study, and he hopes to have the results by the end of this year. A steering committee will be formed to help guide the final report, which he is recommending will consist of Alderman Wynne from the Transportation/Parking Committee, Rich Shure of the Utilities Commission, a representative from the Environment Board, and someone from Historical Preservation, about seven to nine people in total.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

Public tours of the Water Treatment Facility are scheduled for Saturday, May 13. An offer was made to a candidate for the Climate & Energy Program Coordinator position, but it was turned down. The title and responsibilities of the position are going to be changed somewhat before it is posted again.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 a.m.

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