



**MEETING MINUTES**

**UTILITIES COMMISSION**

FRIDAY, June 9, 2017, 7:15 A.M.  
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.  
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg,  
M. White  
Members Absent: R. Shure  
Staff Present: A. Price, D. Stoneback  
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

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**1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:13 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 12, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Everhart moved to approve the minutes with a minor change, 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 stated that Mr. Jensen has been out of town at a training session all week and did not provide an update report, but he believes that everything is going along well. Mr. Jensen has an intern assisting him on gathering data and contacting the property owners and managers that have to comply with the ordinance. Mr. Nieuwsma stated the last time he spoke with Mr. Jensen at the last Utilities Commission meeting he said the City had not received any complaints from owners or managers of buildings that had to comply with the ordinance.

**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 very few power outages in May.

The normal amount of basement backups due to private lateral problems occurred in May. He noted that there were three private basement flooding's due to leakage through foundation cracks.

There was only one water main break in May and a total of only eight water main breaks this year due to the very mild winter and lack of deep frost penetration.

There were the normal amount of Sewer Repair Permits obtained in May and no Water Service Repair Permits were obtained.

All of the water and sewer capital improvement projects are moving along well. The new capital improvement item is the parking deck at the Service Center where big chunks of concrete fell from a supporting beam. A local structural engineer was hired to inspect it and said emergency repairs were needed. Mr. Stoneback is now getting three quotes to have an official walk through and inspection of the building by a structural engineer to determine the total number of problem areas and repairs needed. Based on that the City will authorize design and hire a contractor to do the repairs.

Water samples were taken from 61 park drinking fountains. Eleven of the drinking fountains were found to have lead concentrations exceeding the 15 parts per billion limit and were shut off. These drinking fountains and service pipes will be replaced. Approximately 10 additional park drinking fountains were shut off pending receipt of lead test results. Information has been posted on the City's website.

**b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers**

Mr. Stoneback reported that negotiations with Skokie remain ongoing, and another 3-month extension of their current contract may be needed. The City made a revised offer to Lincolnwood and they have written back with a counter offer. Therefore, it may take a little while longer to come to an agreement.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Progress toward the next contract for community aggregation**

Mr. Stoneback said that he will obtain the actionable pricing on Monday, June 12 at noon and will then make a recommendation to award at the City Council meeting that evening. He obtained indicative pricing from only two firms, Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company and MC Squared Energy Services. He said based on the indicative pricing it is right around seven cents, just under seven cents for brown energy for 12 months and just over seven cents for green energy. ComEd price to compare will go up to 6.892 in June and up to 7.15 in October, and is expected to go up from there as well. He is hoping to be able to recommend a 2 or 3 year term and be close to those prices. The average of what he received going from brown energy to green energy is .0015 which is what the Utilities Commission set as a standard several years ago. Mr. Stoneback said one thing he is considering for the new aggregation program is to require ComEd to do a sweep on a quarterly basis to find out who new customers are and allow them to be automatically enrolled in the aggregated group with the ability to opt out, but this would need to be approved by the City Council.

Mr. Nieuwsma reported that he spoke at the Evanston Environment Board meeting last night and they voted unanimously to support continuing aggregation and will present a letter to council endorsing it. Chair Lanyon offered to speak on behalf of the Utilities Commission in support of continuing aggregation during the resident comment section of the A&PW meeting of the City Council meeting on June 12.

Mr. Bova moved to approve Chair Lanyon speaking on behalf of the Utilities Commission, seconded by Mr. Nieuwsma.

**A voice vote was taken and Chair Lanyon speaking on behalf of the Utilities Commission was approved unanimously, 6-0.**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Street Lighting Study**

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. was hired to do a Street Light Master Plan Study. A Steering Committee is being formed and will meet to discuss the study before there is a public meeting. Comments from the public meetings will then be taken back to the Steering Committee for discussion on how to proceed, and the engineers will report back to the Steering Committee after performing work. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to ensure a representation of everyone's voice is heard as they move through the process before presenting the master plan for City Council approval. The Steering Committee will be Chaired by Alderman Wynne and Co-Chaired by Alderman Simmons, and he is seeking representation from the Environment Board, the Plan Commission, the Preservation Commission, and the Utilities Commission, which Mr. Shure has volunteered to represent. The first Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18 at the Civic Center.

**b. Oakton Street and Dodge Avenue pipe investigation work**

Mr. Stoneback reported that specimens are being taken out of the ground for investigation activities. He said due to the lawsuit the City's attorneys are involved and onsite determining how evidence will be preserved. He believes as a result of the lawsuit Nicor has now acknowledged that the 24-inch pipelines on Dodge Avenue and Oakton Street are theirs, and have readily acknowledged that they lost 5% of their product as it moved through the gas mains which the City has found encrusting the water mains, and high methane has been found 50 to 60 feet below ground surface which a forensic analysis of indicated is the type of methane that comes from manufactured gas.

**c. ComEd concrete wall (fence)**

Mr. Bova said that he attended the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on June 6 and noticed that there was an item on the agenda to allow a ComEd concrete wall (fence) at the substation at Green Bay Road just north of Lincoln Street. He said the purpose of the 20-foot solid concrete wall is to provide for fire safety in the event of a fire in their equipment. However, in ComEd's presentation they never produced the thermo study that demonstrated the plume of heat as well as the dissipation of that heat through

the fire protection wall, but they are supposed to produce it to the City Council when this item comes before them. He said the bigger issue is that ComEd plans on building these concrete walls at other locations in Evanston and it is not so much that it is an eyesore as it is the fact that it provides safe harboring of people interested in doing elicited acts. Mr. Bova said that the Utilities Commission or Mr. Stoneback should be made aware every time one of these concrete walls is built. Mr. Stoneback said ComEd has already built one of these concrete walls at the substation on Church and Brown, and they plan on building another wall next to the Y.O.U. building on Church and Dodge. He stated that ComEd is building the walls in conjunction with replacing the 4-kV substations with the 12-kV substations, and it is his understanding that this is only a ComEd best management practice and not something that is officially required by anyone. Mr. Stoneback said that will try to find out where all of the substations are located because ComEd does not divulge that information.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that the revised Complete and Green Streets policy will be taken to the A&PW meeting and then to the City Council on Monday, June 12.

Mr. Stoneback announced that a CMMS Specialist was hired on May 26 and attended the kickoff meeting with the vendor. He also announced that Mr. Jensen was promoted to the position of Sustainability Coordinator and will now report to the City Manager, and the position of the Climate & Energy Program Coordinator will work with Mr. Jensen.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

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