



**MEETING MINUTES**

**UTILITIES COMMISSION**

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018, 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

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**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 13, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

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

**The minutes were approved unanimously, 5-0.**

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Building energy efficiency benchmarking initiative – progress report on second year ordinance implementation**

Mr. Stoneback said there is nothing new to report yet, but he noted that Benchmarking Workshops provided to Type 2 building owners are scheduled for May 17, May 31 and June 12. The schedule is posted on the City's website along with information about the program.

**b. Street Lighting Study status report**

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City received about 750 responses to the Street Lighting Level Survey, and the results indicate that approximately 8% of residents think that the lights are too bright; approximately 47% think the lights are too dark, and approximately 45% think the lights are just right. Staff has been meeting with the consultant and is putting together a power point presentation for the next Steering Committee meeting on May 24. He said two representatives from staff attended the lighting show at McCormick Place recently so they could go around and talk to different vendors. Staff will be meeting with two Chicagoland vendors before the next Steering Committee meeting to get their thoughts on how the City should prepare a RFP and what should be included in it, and to get some background knowledge. He said that the thought would be to have a mold made of the light poles, and then buy the mold which would give the City the legal right to it and have whoever is awarded the contract use the mold to make the light poles.

**4. STAFF REPORTS**

**a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2018 improvement projects**

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There were no power outages in April.

There were thirteen basement backups in April, and they were all determined to be private lateral issues.

There were no water main breaks in April.

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

2018 Capital Improvement Projects:

**Inspection of Large Diameter Mains**

Inspection of the 48-inch main along the west side of the North Shore Channel began this week. Inspection of the 36-inch main along the east side of the North Shore Channel is scheduled for the week of May 28.

**Retail Water Meter Replacement Program**

Meter change-out is continuing in the central third of the city. Overall, the project is 54% complete, with 2930 of 5789 meters changed out.

**Emerson Wholesale Meter**

This project was awarded to Bolder Construction at the April 23 council meeting.

**Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation – Mulford Part 2**

Sewer lining is expected to occur in May.

**Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation – Greenleaf**

The City is working to secure an IEPA loan to fund this project. Construction will begin with the receipt of the loan, which is expected in 2019.

**Emergency Sewer Work – 2750 Lincolnwood**

Based on results of the contractor's initial inspection, lining of the sewer may not be possible. Staff is working with various contractors to determine the best rehabilitation method.

**Laboratory Expansion – Engineering Services**

The RFP for design was advertised on April 19. A pre-proposal meeting was held on April 26, and proposals are due on May 22.

All other projects are moving along well.

**b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers and updates on the Skokie rate impasse, Lincolnwood connection and Morton Grove Niles Water Commission connection plans**

Mr. Stoneback and the City Manager attended Lincolnwood's Village Board meeting on May 1, and the Board did not agree to sign the Lincolnwood Water Supply Agreement with Evanston, they will entertain it again in June. Mr. Stoneback said that Skokie sent a letter to the City Manager indicating that they would like Evanston to consider what they refer to as a dump and pump, which would mean Skokie would have one connection point and then they would pump the water through their distribution system. Evanston wrote a letter back saying that they would be willing to discuss that if Skokie accepts Evanston's justifiable new water rate charged to them. Evanston has not heard back from Skokie yet.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Update on Evanston Climate Action Resilience Plan Work Group (CARP)**

Vice-Chair Nieuwsma said that there is no news to report yet, but he noted that semi-formal public engagement sessions have been taking place.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discussion of citizen suggestion to have the electrical distribution system placed underground**

Vice-Chair Nieuwsma directed the Commission's attention to an e-mail from a citizen suggesting to have the electrical distribution system placed underground, and Chair Lanyon's drafted thoughts on the topic. After some discussion the Commission agreed that they would like to use Chair Lanyon's letter with some minor modifications as the official response to the resident.

**Mr. Rosenberg moved to approve sending the letter with minor modifications back to Chair Lanyon for his consideration and for him to respond back to the resident, seconded by Mr. Shure, all approved.**

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Mr. Rosenberg announced that the MWRD is offering an open house and tour of the O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant on May 19. Vice-Chair Nieuwsma made note of the City's priority based budgeting process that is going on now leading up to the 2019 budget. He said that there is a public engagement survey that is open for a few more weeks, and there are a few items on the focused list that would overlap with the Commission's scope of work.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Price,  
Administrative Lead  
Public Works Agency