



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018, 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,
R. Shure
Guests Present: J. Freeman, D. Grumman
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 7:14 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made and seconded to approve the May 11 meeting minutes. All approved.

The minutes were approved unanimously, 6-0.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Stoneback said that the seventh and final Benchmarking Workshop is scheduled for June 12 and the reporting deadline is June 30. Those that are required to report will include Type 1 buildings from last year and Type 2 buildings that were added this year. Type 3 buildings will be added next year.

b. Street Lighting Study status report

Mr. Shure reported that he attended the Street Lighting Study Steering Committee meeting recently. He said the City received about 750 responses to the Street Lighting Level Survey. The results indicate roughly almost half of the people thought the lights are too dark, about 40% thought the lights are just right and about 10% thought the lights are too bright. The Steering Committee was shown a model of another lighting fixture for the top of the pole which was an LED and had no light pollution going skyward. Although it was not exactly like the existing Tallmadge fixtures, it was a close resemblance and is all one piece, making it easier to replace. The concerns of some of the members were the results of the survey indicating whether people thought the streets were too dark or too light had to do with the spacing of the lamps. Mr. Shure thinks that the spacing of the lamps is one of the important issues. He said there will be another meeting in August for the Steering Committee and then one for the public. Mr. Stoneback agreed that spacing of the lamps is the major issue even if they switch to LED lights. He said that the company that made the original light poles went out of business,

but staff that attended the lighting show at McCormick Place recently heard that they are going to find a backer and start up their foundry in Ohio and produce lights for the east coast. If that is the case, the City might be able to buy the molds for the light poles from them. Otherwise, the City will proceed with an RFP to have a mold made of the light poles, and then by owning the mold the City would have the legal right to it and have the mold used by whoever is awarded the contract to manufacture 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:

ComEd recently changed how they notify the City of power outages, which he was not aware of and as a result he did not receive the email notifications. He has now signed up for a group of employees to receive outage notifications not just himself and the City is receiving the outage notifications again. He will also still receive the Annual Report which shows all power outages in Evanston.

There was a significant amount of rain in May making it the wettest May in the Chicagoland area. There was a lot of basement flooding but the City sewers were not surcharged at the time. There were no backups due to a City sewer that he is aware of.

There were six water main breaks in May, three of which occurred on May 22. On that date there was an unusual water main configuration because some the larger water mains were taken out of service in order to do an inspection of them. As a result the North Standpipe level was low and the South Standpipe level was high. The booster pump at the South Standpipe was turned on to try to even the distribution of water and this apparently caused a pressure increase which resulted in three water mains breaking all within an hour of each other. There was one shear break at Isabella and Garrison, which is starting to become a concern because of the structural integrity of the pipe material in that area.

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

2018 Capital Improvement Projects:

Under the water main program where the City offers a free loan to residents to replace their lead water service line, six people have applied for the loan and he is aware of three other people that are replacing their lead service line and paying for it on their own without requesting the loan. He will provide a yearend summary for the Commission.

Water Main Replacement

The relief sewer has been installed and the water main work has now begun. With this work, five drinking fountains in City parks will also be replaced.

Inspection of Large Diameter Water Mains

Inspection of the 48-inch main and the 36-inch main have been completed. Final inspection reports are expected in July.

Emerson Wholesale Meter

This project has been awarded and construction is scheduled to begin in July.

Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation

This project has been completed.

Treated Water Storage Replacement

Design is complete. The City is still working with Northwestern University to address construction and restoration issues, and finalize the bid documents to advertise in July.

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 reported that when the City Manager and he attended Lincolnwood's Village Board meeting on May 1, their Board did not accept the agreement with Evanston. They were supposed to entertain it again in June, however, he received a phone call from Lincolnwood that it will not happen in June because the Board wants staff to meet with Chicago to ensure that they will be able to have an emergency water connection to Chicago, and additionally just yesterday the Village Manager of Lincolnwood was let go. There is no news to report on the Skokie rate impasse.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. In-depth discussion of the Evanston Climate Action Resilience Plan (CARP) Working Group

Chair Lanyon introduced Joel Freeman, Co-Chair of the Evanston Climate Action Resilience Plan (CARP) Working Group to the Commission. Mr. Freeman said the Working Group's task is to create a plan for the City by October 2018 and present it to the City Council. He provided a power point presentation on how to best combat climate change and prepare for the impacts in Evanston. The Commission had a productive discussion focused primarily on the vulnerability/resiliency of the City's storm water infrastructure and recommended that Evanston have a comprehensive storm water management plan. The current storm water management plan prepared by the City is designed to protect water quality and reduce the discharge of pollutants through certain minimum control measures for compliance with EPA MS4 permit requirements. A comprehensive storm water management plan would expand the scope of addressing pollutants and would include additional items/control measures that go beyond control of pollutants. The discussion also touched on current landscaping practices which emphasize sloped land-forms above streets and sidewalks which increase runoff from permeable areas to impermeable surfaces, and cause erosion and wash-off of polluting nutrients and chemicals used in landscape maintenance. Through public education, design guidance and city drainage codes, these practices

should change to create depressed areas to detain more stormwater, reduce erosion and reduce pollution, and the need to provide City staff with resources to update stormwater management models and use these models to analyze local flooding problems and prioritize capital improvement projects involving storm drainage infrastructure and best management practices.

6. NEW BUSINESS

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

Chair Lanyon stated that the letter with modifications that was approved by the Commission at the last meeting in response to the citizen's suggestion to have the electrical distribution system placed underground was sent back to Alderman Rainey, and the matter is now closed.

b. Resignation of Utilities Commission Member

Chair Lanyon announced that due to work commitments Mark White has resigned his seat on the Utilities Commission and there is now one vacant position. Mr. Stoneback said that he would check with the Mayor's office to see if there is a list of candidates for the vacant seat.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

There were no announcements or communications.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price,
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency