



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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

Staff Present: A. Price, D. Stoneback

Guest Present: D. Grumman, L. Sparrow

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 JULY 13, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

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

The minutes were approved unanimously, 6-0.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

a. Introduction and Welcome

Mr. Rosenberg introduced guest and prospective new member, Lisa Sparrow, to the Commission. The Commission members introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Sparrow to the meeting.

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

Mr. Stoneback announced there are two public tours of the Water Treatment Plant scheduled for Saturday, October 6. He said the City also provides tours of the Water Treatment Plant for all of Evanston's Elementary Schools 3rd grade classes.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Chair Lanyon reported that Mr. Jensen's Benchmarking Ordinance Update memo shows that progress seems to be going well.

b. Street Lighting Study status report

Mr. Stoneback said that the City worked with the Consultant on the report and it is now 99% complete. He said due to Aldermen availability it looks like the final Steering Committee meeting will take place in October. They will go over the final report at the meeting and then there will be another public meeting to

let the residents know the results of the report. Mr. Stoneback will provide the Commission with a copy of the report.

5. 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 was one large power outage in August which lasted six hours and affected a number of residents. The cause is still under investigation. Due to an e-mailing error Evanston did not receive power outage notifications in March, April and May. The error was corrected and Evanston started receiving the notifications again in June. As a result, he will rely heavily on the semi-annual report ComEd provides for the missing data.

On August 7 during installation of the last liner segment of an 18" sewer main the contractor was caught by rain and an obstruction in a manhole resulted in twenty-seven basement backups. The contractor took full responsibility for the incident. They coordinated and paid for all cleanup, restoration, and insurance claims. There were ten additional basement backups reported in August that were all determined to be private lateral issues.

There were three water main breaks on Monroe in July, and that water main is now scheduled to be replaced next year. In August there were two water main breaks, one on Payne and one on Leland but since they were only the second breaks on these lines they are not scheduled to be replaced yet.

There were the normal amount of Sewer Service Repair Permits obtained in August and one Water Service Repair Permit was obtained.

2018 Capital Improvement Projects

30" Downtown Feeder Main Rehabilitation

The consultant is continuing work on the 90% plans to submit them to the City for review this month. Construction is scheduled to begin in April of 2019, when IEPA funding is expected to become available.

Water Main Replacement

The water main and associated underground work has been completed at all project locations.

Inspection of Large Diameter Water Mains

An inspection report documenting field activities and observations was submitted on August 21. The final report is expected in early October.

Retail Water Meter Replacement Program

Overall the project is 93% complete. Work continues to address the last 7% of residential meters and the large water meters in the City.

Emerson Wholesale Meter

Two major connections were completed to the City's existing 36" water mains. Additional piping and the meter vault is approximately 75% complete.

Electrical and communications equipment is being installed, with startup in October. After the City's construction contract for the meter vault is complete, MGNWC will come in to make the final water main connection and restore the area by next spring.

Lincolnwood Connection and Meter Vault

A water supply agreement has been executed with Lincolnwood. Their plan is to receive water without the pump station being operational as soon as the pipeline is complete. The City will issue an RFP for engineering and design of the water main and meter vault this fall with construction to begin next spring.

Treated Water Storage Replacement

The City has negotiated the easement with Northwestern University and revised plans to meet some of their requirements. This project was advertised for bid on September 13 and may go to Council for award in January, pending IEPA loan approval.

Door Improvements

The project has been awarded, and a kickoff meeting was held on August 15.

Laboratory Expansion

The project has been awarded, and a kickoff meeting was held on August 29.

2019 Proposed Budget for Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Stoneback distributed the 2019 Proposed Budget for Capital Improvement Projects and provided a brief description of each project. Staff will be finalizing and submitting the proposal and he should have a finalized list ready by the next meeting for the Commission's review and recommendation to City Council to support funding, if they are so inclined.

b. Status of the Skokie rate litigation, update on Lincolnwood water main connection and pumping station construction

Mr. Stoneback reported that Skokie has filed a lawsuit in federal court against Evanston. Two days before Evanston had to respond, Skokie amended their complaint, but they did so inappropriately and there was a court hearing where the judge admonished Skokie but allowed their amended complaint. The judge appears to believe that this lawsuit belongs in state court rather than federal court.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) – feedback on meeting held on June 8

Chair Lanyon directed the Commission's attention to the CARP Public Comment Form. He suggested that members take a look at the plan online and complete the comment form on the City's website. Mr. Nieuwsma stated that CARP is due in front of City Council in early November. He said Citizens' Greener Evanston is putting together a list of organizations in the community that support the plan and they would be interested in getting the Utilities Commission to formally endorse it. He would like the Commission to consider the endorsement at the October meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Stormwater Green Infrastructure maintenance

Mr. Stoneback said that three rain gardens were installed at the Civic Center before he became the Public Works Director and there was no communication between City staff that had them installed and the Greenways Division that would be responsible for maintenance of them, and as a result only one rain garden is doing well. The other two rain gardens have become weed fields that will be taken out next year and replaced with appropriate plants and then maintained, and the third rain garden will be redone the following year. A knowledgeable resident is asking for permission for a group of volunteers to maintain the rain garden at the parking lot on Hinman south of Main Street. The contractor who installed the rain garden at this location was responsible for partial maintenance of it for a year and a half and City crews did work on this rain garden twice earlier this year. Staff has had a meeting and decided they could turn maintenance of it over to the group of volunteers as soon as the City receives their signed liability waiver forms. The plans for every rain garden that has been installed since Mr. Stoneback has been Public Works Director are immediately turned over to the Greenways Division so they will know how to maintain them.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price,
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency