



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018, 7:15 A.M.

Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.

Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure, L. Sparrow

Members Absent: C. Bova, D. Everhart

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 7:15 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Nieuwsma moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Sparrow. 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 that Mr. Jensen did not provide a benchmarking update. He stated that Mr. Jensen has two interns who will be assisting him with the implementation of Type 3 Buildings next year.

b. Street Lighting Study – results of the review by city staff, committees and schedule for city council consideration

Mr. Stoneback reported that after the presentation of the Street Light Master Plan at last month's Utilities Commission meeting, the consultant has attended other committees and boards meetings and presented the Master Plan to them as well. He said that the Master Plan will be presented at the City Council meeting on January 22 for action by the Council to receive and place on file. In addition to that there will be a discussion for approval about what type of Talmadge pole to purchase. Staff will be recommending that the City purchase the one piece aluminum pole rather than the cast iron pole for longevity. Chair Lanyon asked Mr. Stoneback to draft a one page letter of support endorsing staff recommendation by the Utilities Commission for approval at next month's meeting.

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 quite a few power outages on November 25 and into November 26 due to a severe ice storm which caused tree limbs to come down on power lines and resulted in many residents losing power for 48 hours. ComEd's response and notification software was not working properly at the time and he sent City employees out to investigate the cause of the outages. He then notified ComEd and had City crews assist with restoration.

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

There was only one water main break in November, which was on Seward Street. Since this was the third break on this water main, the priority for water main replacement has increased.

There were the normal number of Sewer Service Repair requests obtained in November.

There were three Water Service Repair requests obtained in November, which is unusual, and he noted that two of the requests were for St. Francis Hospital. He will find out more information and report back to the Commission at next month's meeting.

2018 Capital Improvement Projects Update:

Inspection of Large Diameter Water Mains

The City has reviewed the inspection report. The report concluded that the pipe that was inspected is in overall good condition with a very low likelihood of failure within the next 15 years, increasing staff's overall confidence in this critical asset. However, issues have been observed at some pipe joints, so staff will continue to monitor the pipeline.

Emerson Wholesale Meter

Construction work related to the installation of the meter vault is complete and startup is underway. The pipeline connecting to the MGNWC system has been installed, and final restoration of the area will be completed next spring. The City flushed water through the pipeline to Morton Grove for the first time on December 10. A base supply is scheduled to be provided beginning December 27.

Treated Water Storage Replacement

Construction was awarded to Thieneman Construction contingent on receiving funding from the IEPA. The City expects to receive IEPA funding by January 1, 2019, at which point the contract can be formally awarded to begin construction in February 2019.

36/42 Intake Replacement – Engineering Services

Staff is working on an RFP for design and permitting to be advertised by the end of this year.

b. Status of the Skokie rate litigation, update on Lincolnwood water contract, and update on Morton Grove Niles Water Commission water main connection and pumping station construction

Mr. Stoneback said there is nothing new to report on the Skokie rate litigation, but the federal judge has all of the information and should make a determination by January or February. The City will start providing water to the MGNWC by the end of this year. The contract for engineering and design of the water main and meter vault for Lincolnwood should be awarded in the spring.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Proposed change to the Utilities Commission – for discussion with Johanna Leonard, Community Development Director – See memo dated September 21, 2018 to the Rules Committee

Mr. Stoneback said that Ms. Leonard was unable to attend the Commission meeting this morning but she provided a memo with updates which he distributed to the members. He noted that the memo states that staff is preparing a survey to be sent to each individual member of the Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs) in January to gather additional information on views and to solicit ideas for potential realignment. The results will be reported to the Rules Committee in February to continue the BCC realignment discussion. Following further direction from the Rules Committee in February, staff anticipates additional follow-up with specific BCCs and next steps. It is contemplated at that time, further discussions will be held with the BCCs.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of the proposed schedule of Utilities Commission meetings in 2019

Chair Lanyon entertained a motion to approve the proposed schedule. Motion moved by Mr. Shure, seconded by Ms. Sparrow. All approved

The 2019 schedule of Utilities Commission meeting dates was approved unanimously, 5-0

b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2019

Chair Lanyon moved to nominate Mr. Nieuwsma for Chair, seconded by Ms. Sparrow. All approved. Chair Lanyon moved to nominate Mr. Shure for Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Sparrow. All approved.

The elections of Mr. Nieuwsma for Chair and Mr. Shure for Vice Chair were approved unanimously, 5-0

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stoneback announced that the City has awarded chemical purchases for water treatment and noted that all of the prices increased except for Aluminum Sulfate. He said that Darrell King, Water Production Bureau Chief is researching the reason for the increases.

APPROVED

Mr. Nieuwsma announced that he received an email from the Mayor suggesting that it would be great if Evanston citizens with some level of expertise were to apply to the newly reformulated Great Lakes Advisory Board, which is a federal EPA entity. Mr. Nieuwsma will forward the email to the Utilities Commission members.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency