MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Absent: C. Bova, R. Shure
Guest Present: D. Grumman
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: J. Nieuwsma

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
   A quorum being present, Chair Nieuwsma called the meeting to order at 7:16 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2018 MEETING MINUTES
   Mr. Lanyon 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
      Mr. Jensen reported that due to the Federal Government shutdown the Federal EPA and many of its programs, including the ENERGY Star Portfolio Manager web service, which the City uses for tracking and reporting of the benchmarking ordinance is currently unavailable. He said as staff awaits reopening of the Federal Government and renewed access to ENERGY Star Portfolio Manager staff is preparing for enrolling Type 3 buildings. Given the difficulties that property representatives had in 2018 working with Nicor Gas’ new system for data requests staff is exploring ways to ease this burden in 2019. Staff is currently considering the two following options and welcomes input from the Commission on which strategy will be most effective:

      1. Allow all properties (regardless of type) to submit a waiver request for natural gas consumption if they meet hardship requirements in accessing their data from Nicor Gas.
      2. Waive the reporting requirement for Type 3 buildings in 2019 and continue to work with Nicor Gas to explore ways to ease the burden property representatives when requesting data.

      Mr. Jensen said at the moment staff is leaning towards pursuing the first option which would continue the planned implementation of the policy while
acknowledging that reasonable requirements placed on property representatives by utilities should be taken into consideration while evaluating property compliance. Chair Nieuwsma suggested another option: require Type 3 buildings to report a planned but waiving natural gas reporting requirements. Ms. Sparrow offered to reach out to an executive-level contact at Nicor. The Commission will not take any action until next month’s meeting to allow time to explore the issue further.

b. Street Lighting Study – review and approve draft letter of support
Mr. Stoneback said he did not have a chance to draft a letter but he will do so today and email it to the Commission members.

4. STAFF REPORTS
a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2018/2019 improvement projects
Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

The 2015 to 2018 year to year comparison report for basement backups and flooding, water main breaks, and water and sewer repair permits looks pretty consistent.

There were two reported power outages in December. One outage was due to an equipment problem and the other is still under investigation.

There was one City caused basement backup in December. He does not know the reason for the backup but will find out and report back to the Commission at next month’s meeting. All other backups were determined to be private lateral issues.

There was one water main break in December, which occurred on Ashland Avenue.

There were a fair amount of Sewer Repair Permits obtained in December which is normal, and one Water Repair Permit was obtained.

2018 Capital Improvement Projects Update:
30” Downtown Feeder Main Rehabilitation
City staff has requested a Change Order from the consultant to add an alternate bid for open cut water main replacement in areas where it may be cheaper than CIPP lining rehabilitation. Construction has been deferred and is now planned to begin in April 2020 when IEPA funding is expected to become available.

Treated Water Storage Replacement
The City received a formal offer from the IEPA for a 20-year loan. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for January 29th, and it is expected that the contractor will mobilize at the end of February.

36/42 Intake Replacement – Engineering Services
The RFP for design and permitting was advertised on December 20th, with a mandatory pre-proposal meeting on January 17th, and proposals due on February 19th.

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 stated there is no news on the Skokie rate litigation due to the Federal Government shutdown. He said Evanston began providing potable water to Morton Grove Niles Water Commission on December 27. However, they are not receiving their full day requirement yet as they do not have their standpipe that will be on the pipeline in the future and their pump station is still under construction.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   a. Climate Action and Resilience Plan update
Chair Nieuwsma reported that the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) was approved by the City Council in early December. He said Mr. Jensen will present a draft implementation plan to the City's Human Services Committee on March 4. Chair Nieuwsma said Citizens’ Greener Evanston is planning a summit meeting tentatively scheduled for February 9, to include community stakeholders, community groups, the Environment Board, and hopefully someone from the Utilities Commission. He said the point of the meeting will be to collaborate and discuss amongst all of the groups who will be doing what and coordinate so they are making the most sufficient use of all of the community resources. Mr. Jensen said when CARP was approved by the City Council in December it was with the understanding that in March staff would bring an implementation strategy to the Human Services Committee for discussion that would include detailed funding request and funding need, and as a part of that he is working with department heads and a few community partners to identify the highest priority focus areas and which initial steps the City and its partners will take to begin to make progress on the plan's goals.

b. Proposed change to Utilities Commission
Chair Nieuwsma informed the Commission that Johanna Leonard, Community Development Director, is convening with the current and former Chairs of the Utilities Commission and Environment Board in a couple of weeks. He said Mr. Stoneback, Mr. Jensen and himself will also be in attendance.

6. NEW BUSINESS
There was no new business.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS
There were no announcements or communications.

8. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency

APPROVED