



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019, 7:15 A.M.

Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.

Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, J. Nieuwsma, R. Shure, L. Sparrow

Members Absent: D. Lanyon, E. Rosenberg

Staff Present: 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 JANUARY 11, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Sparrow moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Everhart. All approved.

The minutes were approved unanimously, 5-0.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ms. Sparrow said she reached out to an executive-level contact at AGL Gas, parent company of Nicor, regarding Nicor's process for providing aggregated building-level natural gas usage data. Ms. Sparrow expects to hear back from her contact next week. The Commission will not take any action until next month's meeting.

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

Mr. Stoneback said the Commission's letter of support for the Street Light Program has been crafted and will be attached to the memo going to the City Council on February 18.

4. STAFF REPORTS

a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2019 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There were several power outages reported during the polar vortex on January 30 due to equipment failure.

There were five basement backups in January, which were all determined to be private lateral issues.

In January there was a water main break on Ridgeway, which has had five previous breaks. It is now on the list for replacement. There was also a water main break on Bernard, which has had four previous breaks and is now moving its way up the list to be replaced.

There were eight Sewer Service Repair permits obtain in January, which is rather low for this time of year, and there were two Water Service Repair permits obtained which is considered a lot since there are usually only eight to ten permits obtained in a year.

2019 Capital Improvement Projects Update:

Lincolnwood Connection and Meter Vault

City staff is meeting on February 1 to review and discuss engineering proposals for design of the water main and meter vault.

Treated Water Storage Replacement

The pre-construction meeting was held on January 29 with representatives from the City, contractor, subcontractors, and Northwestern University. The contractor is scheduled to mobilize on site the first week of March.

36/42 Intake Replacement – Engineering Services

The RFP for design and permitting was advertised on December 20, and the pre-proposal meeting was held on January 17. Proposals are due on February 19.

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

There was no update.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Proposed change to the Utilities Commission

Chair Nieuwsma reported that Mr. Lanyon, Mr. Stoneback and himself met with Kumar Jensen and Johanna Leonard, Community Development Director, and representatives from the Environment Board on January 23. He said no formal decisions were made but Ms. Leonard is going to revise her draft of the proposed restructuring of all the Boards, Commission & Committees (BCCs). Mr. Stoneback said there will be a special council meeting on February 12 in which the City Manager will try to have the Aldermen establish what their goals are for 2019 which will help to determine how to proceed with dividing up the BCCs to meet City goals. Chair Nieuwsma asked the members how they felt about the Utilities Commission's current meeting time and location. All members responded that they are happy with both the meeting time and the location. Several members said that due to their work schedules they would not be able to attend the meetings if the time and location was changed.

b. Climate Action and Resilience Plan update

Chair Nieuwsma informed the Commission that the Citizens' Greener Evanston summit meeting will be held on either March 9 or March 16, he will know more in a few days.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Investor Owned Utility Interest

Mr. Stoneback spoke about an expression of interest from an investor owned utility to acquire the City's wastewater system. Ms. Sparrow provided the Commission with some information about the industry and the pros/cons of municipal acquisitions. The Commission agreed that if the City were to ever entertain any offers, it should be an open bid process vs. working with any single utility.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

There were no announcements or communications.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency