



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **UTILITIES COMMISSION**

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019, 7:15 A.M.  
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.  
Large Conference Room

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

Staff Present: A. Price, D. Stoneback

Presiding Member: J. Nieuwsma

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#### **1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum being present, Chair Nieuwsma called the meeting to order at 7:14 a.m.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Shure moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg. All approved.

**The minutes were approved unanimously, 6-0.**

#### **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Ms. Sparrow reported that Mr. Jensen and her contact at AGL Gas, parent company of Nicor, have connected and are working together to sort things out. Mr. Stoneback stated that Mr. Jensen has a plan to allow all properties to submit a temporary waiver request for natural gas consumption if they meet hardship requirements in accessing their data from Nicor Gas. Chair Nieuwsma said since Mr. Jensen is currently on vacation this discussion will be tabled until next month's Commission meeting.

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

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City Council received and placed on file the Street Lighting Master Plan. He is currently preparing the RFP to buy the Talmadge poles and fixtures in accordance with the Street Lighting Master Plan. Mr. Stoneback said as part of the Commission's recommendation meters will be placed on two of the power centers therefore, he would like this item to remain on the Commission's agenda for the next couple of months.

#### **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 in February due to severe weather.

All basement backups that occurred in February were determined to be private lateral issues.

There have been twelve water main breaks in the first two months of this year. There have been five previous breaks on Foster Street and the water main is now scheduled to be replaced next year, and five previous breaks on Ridgeway Avenue which will be replaced this year.

The number of Sewer Service Repair permits obtained have been down in the past two months, but the number of Water Service Repair permits obtained have increased. There are usually only four Water Service Repair permits obtained in a full year and there have already been four permits obtained in the past two months.

Chair Nieuwsma requested an historical comparison of data and Ms. Sparrow suggested that annual rather than monthly data would be most useful. Mr. Stoneback will include that information in future reports.

2019 Capital Improvement Projects Update:

**Water Main Replacement**

City staff is currently finalizing the water main construction documents for bid as well as the MWRD permit. The IEPA permit has been submitted for all water main work. The expected advertisement date is March 21 with a recommendation to City Council on May 13.

**Lincolnwood Connection and Meter Vault**

City Council approved award of the Engineering Services Contract to Greeley and Hansen. The kickoff meeting for the design was held on March 5, and they are now trying to coordinate with Lincolnwood. Lincolnwood will bid their project in July which might delay their receiving water until January or February 2020.

**2019 Sewer CIPP Rehabilitation**

2018-B - The contractor is prepared to begin work as soon as sustained temperatures rise to 20 degrees and above. 2019-A - Bids were opened on January 15. Staff will recommend that the City award the contract to the low bidder (Visu-Sewer) on March 11, although the low bidder's LEP waiver was rejected.

**Hinman Relief Sewer Extension – Phase 3**

The relief sewer on Hinman Street is currently under design. This work will be advertised and awarded with the Water Main Replacement Project.

**Sewer Repairs on Street Improvements**

The sewer repairs at 2750 Lincolnwood as well as other minor repairs were designed in conjunction with the water main project and the MWRD permit is expected to be submitted by March 7. This work will be advertised and awarded with the Water Main Replacement Project.

**Treated Water Storage Replacement**

Northwestern University has decided to widen Campus Drive. Work will begin this weekend and it is expected to be completed by early next week. The contractor will then begin mobilizing on site. The City is working to drain the reservoir so demolition can begin.

**South Standpipe Pump Station MCC and Building Improvements**

The new MCC was delivered on February 14 and has now been installed. It is being tested for local operation while City Staff works on integration.

**Filter Freight Elevator and Controls Rehabilitation**

Staff is reviewing the design for compliance with the latest permitting requirements. The bid package is scheduled to be advertised in March.

**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 that the City is still waiting for a ruling from the federal judge on the Skokie rate litigation. He said the City is continuing to provide Morton Grove Niles Water Commission about half of their daily requirement of potable water 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. Proposed change to the Utilities Commission**

Mr. Stoneback said there was no news to report.

**b. Climate Action and Resilience Plan update**

Mr. Nieuwsma announced that the Citizens' Greener Evanston summit meeting has been pushed back to May. He will provide the Commission and Mr. Stoneback with the date when it becomes available.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Investor Owned Utility Interest**

Mr. Stoneback said he has not heard back from the investor owned utility that had expressed interest in acquiring the City's wastewater system. He said a company has expressed interest in purchasing the City's cell tower leases. Sprint and T-Mobile currently have leases with the City for placement of their cell antennas atop the water standpipe facilities and those companies are merging, as a result the City will lose at least one of those leases. He said if this company wants to take over the City's leases and pay Evanston upfront for it, the City would not have to take the risk of Sprint and T-Mobile just bailing on the leases.

**b. “Smart” water analysis technology for homeowners**

Mr. Everhart reported that he attended a Watts Company meeting and they are on a big push to make everything they can “smart” and connected, and soon they are going to be coming to market with a product which is a filter but it also will perform water analysis and send it to your cell phone. This is really aimed at residential customers but it could be applied presumably for commercial customers as well. His concern is where the water districts responsibility would end and start should a resident get an indication that something was above the parameter of what it was supposed to be, whether it is an issue with their equipment or some actual commission, and how a municipality would handle that. Mr. Stoneback said that he does not have a response since he does not know what parameters they are going to be testing and he doubts that they will be testing in any of the forms that are required. Ms. Sparrow said she thinks the technology is just one avenue to a trend that is heading our way which is going to be people having more and more information about their water however they get it. She said some time before that happens there is going to have to be a lot of public education around it and a broader conversation around the country. Mr. Stoneback said if this filter comes out on the market the City would look to the AWWA for best management practices and follow industry recommendations.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Shure met the new Chief of Police, Demitrous Cook, and said that Chief Cook would like as much feedback from the community as possible. Mr. Shure said if the Commission has any collective concerns about safety, security or any of the policing policies that they would like to ask Chief Cook directly, he would be more than happy to attend one of the Commission meetings and answer those questions. Mr. Stoneback said that he has a good working relationship with Chief Cook and the Police Department. Public Works has police radios now so they can communicate with them on different issues and they have Fire Department radios now as well so they can all communicate better with each other.

Mr. Stoneback announced that there will be two public tours of the Water Treatment Plant on Saturday, May 11. The tours will be advertised in early April.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Price  
Administrative Lead  
Public Works Agency