



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, July 8, 2016, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Lanyon J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure,
M. White
Members Absent: D. Everhart
Staff Present: K. Jensen, 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 JUNE 10, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Nieuwsma moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shure.

The minutes of the June 10, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously, 6-0.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Jensen announced that the Evanston Recycles event will be held tomorrow Saturday, July 9th at ETHS parking lot. Information can be found on the City's website.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency initiative – report on city council presentation on June 20 and three recent public comment open meetings and the next steps for consideration of the draft ordinance by the City Council

Mr. Jensen said that he presented an update to City Council on June 20th and informed them that a period of public comment would begin on 21st on the current draft of the benchmarking ordinance, followed by a press release, posting on the City's website, and the development of a public feedback forum. He said that all three of the scheduled public comment sessions have been held, and across all three of them there were only three attendees total. He has also received 4-5 phone calls or e-mails, and has not received any overwhelmingly negative comments from the people who have reached out; they have been more asking questions about how their building is going to fit into the draft ordinance. Moving forward, the official period of public comments ends a week from today on July 15th, and at that point there are a few very minor revisions that he is going to recommend, most of them are tweaking a little bit of language to make things a little clearer based on some of the comments he has received. The ordinance is scheduled for introduction at A&PW on Monday, July 25th contingent on Mr. Jensen working with the Law Department to draft the ordinance.

B. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Consideration of a brief written report on lighting circuit testing and opportunities for data collection

No action was taken.

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2016 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There were quite a few power outages during the month of June. The first couple of outages were scheduled for maintenance, and there were several 311 calls regarding power outages that ComEd did not report to him because they were not at the circuit level. Three of the outages were on June 28th all on the same block of Greenwood, which is one transformer area.

There was one City basement backup on Darrow, which is a shallow service that connects to a dead end manhole, and the blockage was right in the manhole where their sewer lateral enters. A sewer crew was able to easily unclog it. All of the rest of the basement backups were determined to be private lateral issues.

There was one water main break on Eastwood, which was repaired without having to shut the water down.

There were no Water Service Repair permits obtained in June, and the normal number of Sewer Service Repair permits were obtained.

He did not have time to create the report for Capital Improvement Projects due to the short week, but he noted that the Reliability Improvements at the Water Treatment Plant project came in under price and he is going to make a recommendation to award. For the water main contract project, a new water main was installed on Dewey and the water main on Hastings was replaced. The water main on South Boulevard for three blocks, from Dodge east to Florence will be lined. The contractor has installed a temporary water main first and it has failed the chlorination test five times in a row. When Mr. Stoneback inspected the site, some of the pipe the contractor brought in to use was sitting on the curb line and he could see a biofilm inside. He forced the contractor to bring in new pipe and it passed on the first chlorination test. He is still in conversations with Northwestern University to determine how to accommodate the City's and Northwesterns concerns in the design of the new reservoir project.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback reported that the meeting scheduled with Morton Grove and Niles last week was cancelled. Evanston hired an outside consultant to determine the cost of service to establish the price of water, and he will be meeting with Morton Grove and Niles next week.

C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative

Mr. Jensen reported that the Residential Rain Barrel Program is going strong. The MWRD announced that the free program will be ending at the end of this year. He said that Evanston has seen a huge drop off in the number of residents

requesting rain barrels since most residents who wanted them have already applied for them, but MWRD orders in general are spiking right now with over 13,000 orders in June.

D. Chloride water quality initiative status

No action was taken.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Procurement for electricity for city owned facilities

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that the City has received three proposals for the procurement for electricity for City owned buildings. He said that the City is either going to go with the Illinois required green level or 100% green, with a recommendation to award for 36 months based on indicative pricing. He said the three companies he received indicative pricing from came back with request to modify the proposed service agreements which are being reviewed by the Law Department. Once the Law Department determines what modifications are acceptable, and if the three companies accept the City's final offer, they will then be in on the actionable pricing. Staff will make the recommendation to go with 100% green, and since the difference in price between brown energy and 100% green is not substantial, he thinks that the Council will agree that it is the better way to go. He said that it will go to Council either on August 15th or the first meeting in September.

B. Future Community Aggregation

Mr. Nieuwsma provided a power point presentation related to community aggregation showing different ways the City might lock into renewable energy benefits in a long term manner when the current community aggregation contract expires in July or August next year. He said that the City of Evanston and the community of Evanston are committed to carbon reduction. The City Council has voted unanimously twice as an expression of this commitment, first in 2008 committing to a 13% reduction outlined in the Evanston Climate Action Plan and again in 2014 committing to a 20% reduction outlined in the Evanston Livability Plan. Evanston has achieved a total 18.6% reduction, the City has done a great job at reducing their emissions by going 100% renewable through community aggregation. However, some residents have opted out of the aggregation program either intentionally or by default. Mr. Nieuwsma said it is important to continue with renewable energy under the City's aggregation program and increase participation in it to ideally 100%. Mr. Stoneback said that if the City Manager approves, staff will go out for RFP for municipal aggregation either in December or the beginning of January but it will be a hard sell since ComEd will have lower legacy prices for a while. Mr. Bova said that if the City does not continue the aggregation program it will have a huge impact on Evanston's Climate Action Plan. Mr. Nieuwsma stated that the CGE Renewable Energy Committee will have an open meeting to discuss aggregation on Wednesday, July 13th at the Civic Center.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.