



**UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016, 7:15 A.M.  
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.  
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, D. Lanyon J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg,  
R. Shure, M. White  
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback  
Guest Present: P. Athans, J. Freeman, D. Grumman, D. Guran  
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

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**1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 8, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. White moved approval, seconded by Mr. Everhart.

**The minutes of the April 8, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously, 7-0.**

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Introduction and welcome**

Evanston residents, David Guran and Peter Athans introduced themselves and the Commission welcomed them to the meeting.

**B. Plan to reduce the number of city boards, committees and commissions**

Mr. Stoneback reported that the Rules Committee is meeting to discuss all boards and commissions and trying to consolidate them. The Utilities Commission was discussed at a previous meeting and they decided it will stay as it is.

**C. Forthcoming Public Works Agency activities relative to the Utilities Commission**

Mr. Jensen reported that Intern Christopher Mejia recently finished his internship with the City. Mr. Mejia did the primary work inputting data and doing the first wave of benchmarking for city owned facilities. Mr. Jensen announced that he recently accepted a position in the Public Works Agency as the Environmental Project Coordinator, reporting to Mr. Stoneback. He will still work very closely with Catherine Hurley on numerous projects, and also do most of the communications for the City's environmental sustainability programs.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency initiative – report on the presentation to City Council held on May 9 and next steps for public outreach before the draft ordinance is presented to the City Council for consideration**

Mr. Jensen said the proposal is to take an update to the May 23<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting for discussion only to inform them of the process the working group is

taking to develop the ordinance. It will be a short presentation during the A &PW Committee meeting. The proposal for the next steps is to have a period of public comment beginning May 24<sup>th</sup> through June 13<sup>th</sup>. He will do a press release announcing that the ordinance will be posted on the City's website benchmarking webpage. There will be three drop-in sessions at the civic center where property managers, building owners, and condo association members can provide comment for or against the ordinance, and learn more about the ordinance and benchmarking in general. The tentative dates for the drop in sessions are May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, and June 9<sup>th</sup>. He is hoping to finalize today what the rough implementation structure will look like and whether there may be some budgetary implications and send it to the City Manager, and then with his approval, continue on this schedule but if there are any concerns he will request to go back and revise the implementation structure.

- B. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Brief written report on lighting circuit testing and opportunities for data collection will be discussed with ComEd**  
Mr. Freeman reported that his draft report is almost complete, and it seems based on his measurements the City might be able to get a 10% additional reduction. There are some calculations that are not squaring up and he would like to nail those down before providing the Commission with a draft.

## **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 four power outages in April, all of which were scheduled to do repairs.

There were seven basement backups that were determined to be private lateral issues, and one city basement backup. He does not know the reason for the city backup but he will find out and e-mail the Commission.

There were no water main breaks in April, which is due to the mild winter. There was one shear break; which he will get more information about for the Commission.

There were no Water Service Repair permits obtained in April, which is not uncommon.

There were 51 Sewer Service Repair permits obtained in April, although it is the most there has been in the last three years, it is still not considered a large amount.

The Plant Reliability Improvements project is out to bid now, the pre-bid meeting has been held and it should be awarded soon. The Masonry Repair project is ongoing. The Chlorine Scrubber Media Replacement has been installed, and the recommendation to purchase the Chlorine Cylinder Emergency Shutoff Valves will be made at the June 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting. The Water Main Replacement project was awarded on April 11<sup>th</sup>, a pre-construction meeting has been held and

construction began a few days ago. Restoration work is basically complete for the Sheridan Road Water Main project, just a few punch list items remain. A change order increasing the contract amount will go to council on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The contractor is mobilized on site and is prepping to line the large diameter sewer on Mulford Street from Dodge to the west end of James Park. The city is still working with Northwestern University on the Treated Water Storage Replacement project to determine whether to put the reservoir back in the same location or move it to the east to allow more space between the new dorms that are under construction. If the reservoir is relocated to the east, Campus Drive is likely to be rerouted through the space made available.

**B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers**

Mr. Stoneback reported that Des Plaines is now receiving about 4 million gallons of water from the Northwest Water Commission. The City is having more serious discussions with Morton Grove and Niles, and it looks very favorable at this point. The City has hired a consultant to confirm the city's assets and the value of those assets, the original cost and the reproduction cost, to help solidify which assets would be in the rate base, finalize what the charges would be and provide the villages with a firm price.

**C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Ideas on development of a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings**

Mr. Jensen reported that the Residential Rain Barrel Program is going very well. The City has had over a thousand orders. There are two workshops related to localized stormwater management that incorporate native and water absorbing plants as well as instructions on how to most effectively utilize the rain barrels.

**D. Chloride water quality initiative status**

No action was taken.

**E. Draft MS4 permit for storm sewers**

Chair Lanyon asked if the City had any problems with the revisions. Mr. Stoneback responded there are none that he is aware of.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Report on HB 4659, Authorize the MWRD to Offer a Residential/Private Property Cost-Share Program to Update the Sewerage System**

Chair Lanyon reported that HB 4659, which is an initiative of the MWRD for a residential cost-share private sewer repair program, is stalled in the House but may come up in the veto session later in the year.

**B. A review of state renewable energy initiatives and ComEd's role in the discussion**

Mr. Nieuwsma drew the Commission's attention to the Next Generation Energy Plan (NGEP), legislation proposed by ComEd and its parent company, which would undermine renewable energy in Illinois. Mr. Nieuwsma put before the Commission a Proposed Resolution in opposition of ComEd's plan and encourages them to support legislation that is favorable to renewable energy. Mr. Bova said he would like more information before making a recommendation to Council. Chair Lanyon requested that Mr. Nieuwsma broaden the language in the

resolution to include remarks about the City's Livability Plan and bring it back to the Commission for consideration at the June meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Nieuwsma moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. White.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Price  
Special Projects Assistant  
Public Works Agency