



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

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

---

**1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

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

**The minutes of the March 11, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously, 5-0.**

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Introduction and welcome**

New Sustainability Intern, Chris Mejia, and Evanston citizen, David Guran, introduced themselves and the Commission welcomed them to the meeting.

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

Mr. Stoneback said he believes that the Utilities Commission will stand by itself without merging with any other commission or board. This item will be discussed at the Rules Committee meeting in May.

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

Vice-Chair Nieuwsma announced that Citizens' Greener Evanston will be hosting its major Earth Month event, "Making Evanston the Most Livable City – For Everyone" at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Jensen announced that the annual "Clean up, Evanston" event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in 27 different locations in Evanston to honor Earth Day and Arbor Day.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency initiative – report on the last stakeholders meeting held on March 24, an update on water benchmarking for city buildings and next steps for the draft ordinance**

Mr. Jensen reported that the last stakeholders' meeting was lightly attended, but representatives from Nicor and ComEd were present making it a productive meeting. The City now has a pretty solid draft ordinance that the Law Department is reviewing one more time. The City Manager's recommendation is to go to

Council on May 9<sup>th</sup> to provide a very short update, and allow one last call for comment before bringing it to Council for discussion, and then potentially a vote. He said that the draft ordinance would be put on the City's website and there will be one more meeting in the end of May targeting property managers, property owners, and condo boards.

**B. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Brief written report on lighting circuit testing for use in discussion with ComEd 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 two unscheduled power outages in March. He does not yet know the duration or cause of the outages.

He spoke with ComEd representative, Carlo Cavallaro, who said that several thousand Smart Meters have been installed in Evanston to date, and there are still a few thousand left to be installed, they are about 2/3 complete. Globally the implementation of the Smart Meters is going very well.

There were a few basement backups in March, and they were all determined to be private lateral problems.

There were only four water main breaks in March, which is due to the mild winter.

There were no Water Service Repair Permits obtained in March, but there were a significant number of Sewer Service Repair Permits obtained which is comparable to this time last year.

He will be making recommendation to award work for the Masonry Repairs and Roof Improvements project at Monday night's Council meeting. He has received very favorable bids for the Water Main Replacement project and will be making a recommendation to award work at Monday night's Council meeting as well. All of the water main and water main lining has been installed on the Sheridan Road Water Main project and it is now in service. The contractor is working on restoration at this time, but full resurfacing will not occur until next year. The first contract for the CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation project has been awarded and the preconstruction meeting has been held. The contractor will begin work soon. The IEPA loan for the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation project on Mulford Street from Dodge to the west end of James Park has been received. The contractor is already mobilized at the site and work is expected to be completed by mid-May. The Emerson Street, Ridge Avenue and Green Bay Road Corridor Project bids came in \$2.8 million over funding levels at this time. Just yesterday the City was able to increase its grant amount from CMAP by \$1.3 million, and the City is looking to increase the Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant by another \$844 thousand. He is suggesting allocating more funds from the Sewer fund and

Parking fund next year. This project will be discussed at Monday night's Council meeting.

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

Mr. Stoneback will be meeting with Morton Grove and Niles next week to look at different options to utilize portions of Evanston's distribution system rather than the entire distribution system, which would lower their potential cost and save them excavating all the way through Evanston to the water plant. He also met with the NSMJAWA group along with the Northwest Water Commission (NWC), and his impression is that NSMJAWA will probably just renew their contract with the City of Chicago for a ten year period, and in 2030 when the NWC's contract with Evanston expires, the two groups will look at the feasibility of constructing their own water treatment facility in the western suburbs. There has been no news from Lincolnwood.

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

Mr. Jensen said that the Residential Rain Barrel Program is going very well. The City has had close to a thousand orders for over two thousand rain barrels and he expects that number to keep increasing. There has been some concern about mosquitos due to the overflow hose. Therefore, the Health Department is working on some educational materials to help residents understand how to prevent mosquito breeding. The City is working to expand a program from last year called Livable Landscapes with the Evanston Environmental Association focusing on providing residents with technical guidance in options for buying water absorbing native plants to deal with localized flooding issues on their property. This year it will include the Residential Rain Barrel Program, and will also include on their point list some plants that wake up nicely with the Natural Habitat Evanston Program. There will be at least two free workshops that will be focused on localized stormwater management in late April and late May at the Ecology Center.

**D. Chloride water quality initiative status**

No action was taken.

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

Mr. Stoneback said that the MS4 permit must be submitted by the end of May. He had a meeting with staff yesterday to coordinate and ensure that they will be able to get the annual update submitted on time.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**C. Lead service lines**

Vice-Chair Nieuwsma asked whether Mr. Stoneback has received any complaints or questions from residents concerned about lead service lines. Mr. Stoneback responded that there was at least one resident at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward meeting that was irate that Evanston does not provide free water sampling and testing for lead. He said that Evanston does not have the instrumentation to be able to do that, but he will be investigating what equipment would be needed and the cost. He said that Lansing, Michigan has a program where they are replacing services all the way to the homes, but the way their ordinance is written is that

**APPROVED**

the municipality owns the water service all the way to the home, which is not the case in Evanston. Evanston would need to write an ordinance changing who is responsible for the ownership of the water service all the way to the house, and it could be a significant cost to the City. He is trying to get more data about what other municipalities have done and get a realistic cost estimate of what it would cost to do it for the City of Evanston. He informed the Commission that Evanston started feeding a blend of polyphosphate in the 1990's which coats the interior pipeline and forms a barrier between the lead and the water. Evanston tests water in accordance with federal regulations and there is no history of lead concentrations exceeding the standards regulated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency under state rules and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Rosenberg moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Shure.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Price  
Special Projects Assistant  
Public Works Agency