



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 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
Members Absent: M. White
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Guest Present: D. Grumman, S. Osborne
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 FEBRUARY 12, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

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

The minutes of the February 12, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously, 6-0.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency initiative – report on the last working group meeting held on March 8, preparation for the stakeholder meeting on March 24 and an update on water benchmarking for city buildings

Mr. Jensen reported that at the last working group meeting they went through the draft ordinance released by the Law Department and made some notable changes. They revised a few definitions in the Definitions Section 4-22-3 of the ordinance, to specify Covered Buildings as privately owned buildings and separate City buildings, and more comprehensively integrate water data into the body of the ordinance. He will take a closer look at the Solicitation of Compliance Information Section 4-22-4 to ensure that it is communicated that the building owner is required to comply with the ordinance not the tenant. The Enforcement Section 4-22-5 has been completely revised, giving the building owner an opportunity to present their case and explain why they have not complied with the ordinance before they may be subject to a fine. In the Benchmarking Section 4-22-6, A.1 they will change the wording to Type 1 Covered Buildings and City Buildings, and they pulled out the Retention of Records clause in Section 4-22-6, C to make it clearer. They talked in depth about what criteria the City should use for determining who is a certified professional on the City's list to provide verification services to buildings. Lastly, there were no big changes to the Disclosure Section 4-22-8, once the City has all of the Covered Buildings data it would be disclosed through the open data portal. He said there will be a stakeholders meeting on March 24th. ComEd and Nicor will be in attendance and the City will be making a presentation on how each of the utilities will respond to data requests from building owners. This will be the last public meeting, and then

they will move into the implementation plan and anticipates going to council on May 2nd.

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.

4. 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 three scheduled power outages to do repairs and a big outage on February 19th due to high winds.

All of the basement backups were determined to be private lateral issues.

There were only three water main breaks in February, which is remarkably low and due to the very mild winter.

Water Service Repair Permits obtained in January were high, but there were none in February.

There were fourteen Sewer Service Repair Permits obtained in February, which is rather light.

The City Council approved a change order to complete the Standpipe Painting and Repair project. The pre-bid walk through was completed earlier this week for the Masonry Repairs project and is moving along. The City will pay the initial cost of the Treated Water Storage Replacement project but once the structure is built it goes into the rate calculation to the wholesale water customers. A recommendation will be made on March 14th to purchase the Chlorine Scrubber Media Replacement. Bids will be opened for the Water Main Replacement project on March 22nd. The Sheridan Road Water Main Project is approximately two weeks ahead of schedule. The CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation project has been awarded and work will be starting soon. The status of all of the other projects remains the same as they have been.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that he has received information from Morton Grove and Niles indicating that they want to purchase water directly from the City of Evanston and not from Skokie. The City Manager and he will be meeting with the executive directors of both the NWC and NMSJAWA today to find out what they plan to do. Des Plaines is constructing a water main to purchase water from the NWC, and Lincolnwood has been silent.

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

Mr. Jensen said that the City has completed 260 orders for the Rain Barrel Program since November. A press release will be issued about the program next week and he expects to see the number of orders jump significantly. There is also a program called Livable Landscapes which the Evanston Environmental Association is doing with some support from the City that will be focusing on providing residents with technical guidance in options for buying water absorbing native plants to deal with localized flooding issues on their property. The Rain Barrel Program will be a part of that program as well as a standalone program for residents who just want the rain barrels.

D. Chloride water quality initiative status

Mr. Stoneback reported that there is a meeting coming up being spearheaded by the MWRD on Best Management Practices and Jim Maiworm, Infrastructure & Maintenance Bureau Chief, will be a speaker on reducing the use of salt.

E. Draft MS4 permit for storm sewers

No action was taken.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Annual report for 2016 by the Public Works Agency Director on the Complete and Green Network Approach for Construction Projects in the Public Right of Way

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that the annual report will be provided by the end of the year.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Scott Osborne, member of the Environment Board, will discuss the board's initiative on LED lighting

Chair Lanyon introduced Mr. Osborne and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr. Osborne said that the Environment Board is looking at ways of improving the city's Star Communities ratings, and one of the ways of doing this is by improving street lighting. He provided a You Tube video on the City of Los Angeles' conversion from sodium street lighting to LED street lighting. They have installed 141,000 new LED Street lights in the past 3 years which has cut their cost by 63%. He said that Detroit has also converted to LED street lighting, and as a result, they have saved 50% of their budget for lighting. He also provided a slide show presentation on the City's current Tallmadge lights, and said that they may be a liability to the City because of the low light they provide, while the light glow of the LED lights provides more safety as well as cost savings. Chair Lanyon said that the Commission would support the Environment Board on this initiative. Mr. Stoneback recommended that both the Environment Board and the Utilities Commission go to Council and suggest that this be an initiative for staff to undertake and that funding be allocated for a study to figure out what the payout potentially could be. The Commission will be meeting with ComEd in two months and Chair Lanyon will include this as an agenda item.

B. Lead service lines

Mr. Stoneback had a conversation with the Water Superintendent in Madison, Wisconsin, and he does not think their program will work well in Evanston because Madison received the funding to replace the water services but they did

not receive the funding to redo the streets. Also, the home owner was required to hire a plumber to replace the water service all of the way into the home and were only reimbursed up to \$1000.00. He said Evanston is still planning to replace the service from the water main to the curb stop or valve in the parkway as they put water mains in. Unless Evanston had an ordinance requiring the home owner to replace their water service as Madison did, they would not want to be involved with being associated with a contractor that works in someone's home due to liability.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Stoneback announced that there will be two public tours of the Water Treatment Plant on May 7th as part of National Drinking Water Week.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant
Public Works Agency