



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

Members Present: D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure, M. White
Members Absent: D. Everhart
Staff Present: D. King, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Guest Present: J. D'Angelo, J. Freeman
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. White moved to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. Nieuwsma.

A voice vote was taken and the minutes of the December 11, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously, 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

A. Introduction and welcome

Chair Lanyon introduced and welcomed to the meeting, John D'Angelo, Vice President, Facilities Management, Northwestern University, and Darrell King, Water Production Bureau Chief, Public Works Agency, City of Evanston.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency initiative – preparation for the next working group meeting January 12

Chair Lanyon reported that the next working group meeting scheduled for early January has been postponed until January 26th because the Law Department is still working on the draft ordinance. He said Kumar will have some materials prepared to solicit feedback for what the potential administration of the ordinance will be like at the next Utilities Commission meeting. A new intern has been hired and is working on benchmarking big City buildings. Mr. Freeman said that the EPA is offering an open house webinar answering questions about Portfolio Manager for people who want to learn more or have run into walls about how numbers are cranked out. Mr. D'Angelo informed the Commission that Northwestern University is a long time user of Portfolio Manager and would be happy to assist anyone local.

B. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Discussion deferred until a future meeting

C. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Status of efforts to select circuits for testing

Mr. Freeman reported that he rode around with the Public Works Agency, Traffic Electrician, David Evans, to six lighting control centers and took amp readings. He said that it looks like the actual measurements for five out of the six lighting control centers show a 10% reduction for street lighting. He said that the next step would be to submit the updated values to ComEd to propose that they use it in their calculation for billing, but it is up to ComEd to accept it. Mr. Freeman will put together a summary revising what he would forecast the new totals to be in terms of wattage, and have Mr. Stoneback send it to ComEd. If ComEd does not accept this level of measurement, data loggers could be used for verification. Mr. Freeman will check if there are any data loggers available for use at his office.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2015 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There were only two power outages in December, and both were scheduled.

There were several basement backups and basement floodings in December that were determined to be private issues, and one basement backup on December 15th due to a grease blockage in the sewer main on an all residential block of Noyes but he was unable to determine how the grease blockage occurred.

There were no water main breaks in December.

There was the usual number of sewer services repair permits issued in December.

There were no water service repair permits issued in December.

He just returned from vacation and did not have time to put together information on the 2016 Capital Improvement Plan. The South Standpipe is back in service but he will have to take a change order to council to paint the roof next year and complete the project. He said that they lost time due to high humidity and rain, and being prohibited from working on Sunday due to the noise. He will be making a recommendation to council on Monday for an engineering firm to do the design for the replacement of the 1934 5 MG storage facility. It was determined that the combined sewer is within the CTA easement that the city has along Mulford behind the Levy Center. He is making recommendation to award the lining from Dodge to the end of James Park to council on Monday night. He has confirmed with the CTA that they have an easement for the relief sewer on their property and he found out that the combined sewer runs through that same easement area. Therefore, the city will work with the CTA to modify the easement to include the wording "relief sewer and combined sewer" which will give the city access, and he will just need to get the right of entry permit. He will need to make sure the easement is in place with PACE as well, to be able to set up equipment in their maintenance yard in order to line the sewer.

- B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers**
Mr. Stoneback reported that not much has occurred over the past month with vacations and holidays, but there are meetings scheduled next week with Morton Grove and Niles to continue the discussion. He has not heard anything from the NWC or NSMJAWA, but he imagines that dialogue will start again soon as well.
- C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Ideas on development of a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings**
No action was taken.
- D. Chloride water quality initiative status**
No action was taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Inactive task: Work plan item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Item complete pending pump replacement schedule**
Chair Lanyon recommended removing this item from the agenda since the pump replacement will not happen in the near future. All members agreed to remove item from the agenda.
- B. Inactive task: Work plan item 1.3 Develop a baseline for energy consumption in municipal buildings update – Status of energy consumption database update and update of the Aukman report**
Chair Lanyon recommended removing this item from the agenda due to the development of the benchmarking ordinance. All members agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- C. Inactive task: Work plan item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Item complete pending the annual report of the Director of Public Works on the Complete and Green Network Approach for Construction Projects in the Public Right of Way**
Chair Lanyon asked what the status was of the annual report. Mr. Stoneback responded that since the previous Director of Public Works is no longer with the City the report will not be provided for 2015, but now that he is the new Public Works Agency Director, he will make sure that an annual report will be provided for 2016.
- D. Inactive task: Work plan item 2.4 Evaluate the potential impact of pending USEPA sewer/water regulations on the sewer system and water treatment plant**
Mr. Stoneback said that to his knowledge Evanston has not received anything yet, but the Village of Skokie has sent him a copy of their new NPDES requirements and it seems quite onerous, but he has not time to read it yet. He will forward a copy to Chair Lanyon for his review.
- E. Reorganization of the new Public Works Agency – Status report and future role of the Utilities Commission**

APPROVED

Mr. Stoneback reported that the reorganization is now complete. Chair Lanyon mentioned that when the City Manager met with the commission several months ago the City Manager mentioned the possibility of a change or expansion in the scope of the Utilities Commission. Mr. Stoneback said that it is his understanding that the Rules Committee would like to reduce the number of Boards, Committees and Commissions, but he does not know how that would affect the scope of the Utilities Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2015 Annual Report

Chair Lanyon directed the Commission's attention to the revised approved annual report for final consideration. The Commission had no new revisions. The approved annual report will be forwarded to Oscar Murillo in the City Manager's Office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant
Water Production Bureau