



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, J. Nieuwsma, R. Shure, L. Sparrow
Members Absent: E. Rosenberg
Guest Present: M. Drennan, D. Lanyon, C. Skey, H. Sprague
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: J. Nieuwsma

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The guests were warmly welcomed to the Commission meeting and provided brief introductions.

3. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 12, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Everhart moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Shure. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Building energy efficiency benchmarking update

Mr. Jensen provided an update on the Benchmarking Ordinance which included a summary of the comparison of annual performance of Type 1 properties for their 2016 and 2017 calendar year data. Municipal buildings were included in the analysis.

He said overall, EUI, electricity use and natural gas use all saw a decrease, which is consistent with the significant drop in source energy. These reductions were followed by a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions between 2016 and 2017. The one measure that experienced an increase was water usage. Twenty of the compared properties achieved a score of 75 or higher and qualify for ENERGY STAR certification.

Mr. Jensen noted that staff has some data quality concerns about a dozen or so of the properties specifically in regards to their gas data. Staff was able to complete a very rough property to property data comparison with Nicor and found some substantial discrepancies. Staff believes these discrepancies are a result of Nicor only providing data for meters that property managers self-identify as being located in their building. It appears that Nicor does not have the ability to identify, let alone aggregate, individual accounts within a building

into one number. Chair Nieuwsma said he would invite a Nicor representative to next month's meeting.

b. Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) presentation

Mr. Jensen discussed the CARP implementation strategy. He presented a 2 year implementation table to the Human Services committee on March 4th for discussion only. No action was required at that time. He explained the process and thinking behind how the table is structured and what items are on the table. He has asked the Environment Board at last night's meeting to start looking at the existing performance metrics for each focus area within CARP. He is asking the Utilities Commission for their guidance and review of the existing performance metrics for Building Efficiency, Renewable Energy and the Green Infrastructure component to help give staff a solid baseline for evaluating the progress through 2025. Chair Nieuwsma said the Commission will start the conversation with Building Efficiency first at next month's meeting.

c. Storm Water Management Plan

Mr. Stoneback said staff is still meeting to establish a storm water management plan guide. He should have a draft by next month and will bring it to the Utilities Commission for review.

d. Street Lighting Study

Mr. Stoneback stated that the RFP is out at this time to find a manufacturer for the Talmadge poles.

5. STAFF REPORTS

a. Monthly utility reliability report (electric system outages, basement backups, water main breaks, and service repairs)

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There were quite a few power outages in April due to severe weather.

All basement backups that occurred in April were determined to be private lateral issues.

There was one water main break in April, on the easement that runs between Sheridan Place and Roslyn Place. This is the second break on this water main. The challenge with this water main is that it runs through resident's back yards, and it is now leading the City to CIPP line water mains that go through easements beginning next year.

The normal amount of Sewer Service Repair permits were obtained in April and no Water Service Repair permits were obtained.

b. Water & sewer fund capital improvement project status

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

Water Main Replacement

The project is going to City Council on May 13th with a recommendation to award to Joel Kennedy Construction Corp. Work on the first phase will start shortly after the award. The initial project locations are Monroe Street from Dodge Avenue to Florence Avenue and Hartrey Avenue from Main Street to Washington Street.

2019 Sewer CIPP Rehabilitation

2018-B – The contractor has completed all work. Staff is finalizing a change order to account for the removal of additional protruding taps and for lining sewers that were a size larger than were anticipated. 2019-A – Cleaning and televising have been delayed due to weather, and began April 30th.

Hinman Relief Sewer Extension

Award of this project will go to City Council on May 13th as part of the Water Main Improvements Project. Work at this location will start with the first phase of construction.

Main Street Commons

Contract has been awarded and construction is scheduled to begin the week of May 6th.

Treated Water Storage Replacement

The roof slab, columns, and upper walls have been demolished and removed. Completion of the sheet pile wall has been delayed a bit due to weather. Excavation support wailers and struts are scheduled to be installed next week. Concrete pours are scheduled to begin in May.

36/42 Intake Replacement – Engineering Services

On May 13th, the City approved award of the engineering contract to Stantec Consulting Services. Staff is working on execution of the agreement.

c. Status of the Skokie rate litigation

Mr. Stoneback said the City is still waiting for a ruling from the federal judge on the Skokie rate litigation. Evanston has filed a motion with the federal judge to require Skokie to put funds into an account to pay the past due balance of their water bills.

d. Lincolnwood water project status

Mr. Stoneback said the City met with the design engineer to review 75% plans on April 25th. The project is scheduled to be bid by the end of May.

e. Morton Grove/Niles water main/pumping station status

Mr. Stoneback said MGNWC is still receiving only half of their daily requirement of water from Evanston as they do not have their standpipe that will be on the pipeline in the future and their pump station is still under construction. MGNWC is hoping to have their full system operational in August, and will begin taking their full daily requirement of water at that time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Annual non-revenue water report

Mr. Everhart questioned how non-revenue water leakage is tracked. Mr. Stoneback responded that the state requires that non-revenue water be tracked and reported every year. The City does leak testing on all of their water mains every year and watches for unaccounted for water. He said the City will meet the state's requirement this year. Mr. Stoneback will provide the Commission with an annual non-revenue water report.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stoneback announced that there will be two public tours of the Water Treatment Plant on Saturday, May 11th. Both tours are fully booked.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency