



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure
Members Absent: D. Everhart, C. Skey, L. Sparrow
Staff Present: A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: J. Nieuwsma

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Nieuwsma called the meeting to order at 7:17 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

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

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Building energy efficiency benchmarking update

Chair Nieuwsma informed the Commission that Mr. Jensen is currently out of town and the Nicor representative was not able to attend today's meeting. He will invite them both to attend July's Commission meeting, and he will confirm that Ms. Sparrow will be in attendance as well.

b. Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) presentation

Chair Nieuwsma directed the Commission's attention to the memo and the CARP Policy Package and Engagement Approach provided by Mr. Jensen. He said the Commission's task for today's meeting is an overview of the memo and a preliminary overview of the Policy Package, which they will revisit in July, and then the revised version will be taken to the Human Services Committee in August. He said there is only one item listed in the Table 1 Policy Package that would be formally assigned to the Utilities Commission to work on this year and then be adopted next year. Mr. Rosenberg said the Commission could provide input on two other items listed in Table 1 as well. Table 2 Policies for Future Packages have not been assigned yet but the Commission identified several items that they could definitely provide input on. Chair Nieuwsma will provide feedback to Mr. Jensen so he can provide a revised Policy Package at the July Utilities Commission meeting, which he hopes Mr. Jensen will be able to attend.

c. Storm Water Management Plan

Mr. Stoneback said that this item was deferred due to staffing issues. He believes they are one City staff meeting away from having the plan ready.

Once it is ready, he will share it with Citizens' Greener Evanston and the Utilities Commission to get their input and finalize the plan. There is no RFP at this time.

d. Street Lighting Study

Mr. Stoneback reported that staff has selected Spring City Electrical Manufacturing to manufacture the Tallmadge street light poles. They will make the mold and the City would retain ownership of it. Spring City will cast the Tallmadge street light pole and deliver the City a sample pole. Upon approval of the sample (expected to take place in early 2020), the City would place the first order for a minimum of 10 street light poles and fixtures to be delivered in 2020. Any poles installed by a contractor would be made out of ductile cast iron, and some poles would also be made out of aluminum, which would be installed by City crews on residential streets in the event of a knock down. The same mold will work on both type of poles and the price would be the same. Staff will make recommendation to award at the City Council meeting on June 24th.

e. Non-Revenue Water Report

Mr. Stoneback presented the annual AWWA Water Audit Report for 2018 which shows the City's Water Audit Data Validity Score as 82 out of 100. For better understanding of the report and the score he will have Mr. King, Water Production Bureau Chief provide a memo for the July Utilities Commission meeting along with copies of the reports for the past few years. He will ask Mr. King to report on this again in September when he prepares the 2019 Water Audit Report.

4. 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 several power outages in May due to severe weather.

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

There was only one water main break in May, which was on Howard Street. There have been four breaks previously on that water main and he will be looking at it closer now.

There was the normal amount of Sewer Service Repair and Water Service Repair permits obtained in May.

The Annual Comparison report shows basement floodings have been higher this year than in previous years.

b. Water & sewer fund capital improvement project status

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

Water Main Replacement

The project has been awarded to Joel Kennedy Construction Corp. The pre-construction meeting was held and work on the first phase is currently beginning.

Lincolnwood Connection and Meter Vault

The project was bid on May 30th, with the bid opening scheduled for July 23rd. City staff met with Lincolnwood staff and engineers on June 3rd to continue coordination on design, construction, and startup.

Main Street Commons

Construction has started and scheduled to be completed at the end of November. The Contractor is currently working on the south side of Main Street, within the east end of the project limits.

Treated Water Storage Replacement

The Contractor is working around Northwestern University's end-of-year schedule, beginning to work double shifts (7am -11pm and following the noise ordinance) within a couple of weeks after the commencement week break.

c. Status of the Skokie rate litigation

Mr. Stoneback said there is no news to report. The City is still waiting for a ruling from the federal judge on the Skokie rate litigation.

d. Lincolnwood water project status

Mr. Stoneback reported that this project is moving along.

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.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Downspout relocation

Mr. Nieuwsma said that he has a constituent in northwest Evanston that received a notice from the City requiring him to relocate his downspout, and he was curious what that was about. Mr. Stoneback replied that he assumes a neighbor must have complained that a downspout from their property was flooding the neighbor's property, and therefore they have been requested to relocate the downspout to a location that will not flood the neighbor's property.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Stoneback said the two public tours of the Water Treatment Plant on Saturday, May 11th were well attended.

b. Confirm quorum for July and August meetings

Chair Nieuwsma confirmed that there will be enough Commission members in attendance at the July and August meetings for a quorum.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency