



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, October 11, 2019, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure, C. Skey
Members Absent: D. Everhart
Guests Present: J. Freeman, D. Grumman, G. Martin, R. Olden, T. Partel,
S. Preston
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback, C. Venatta
Presiding Member: J. Nieuwsma

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

Chair Nieuwsma welcomed the guests to the Commission meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Shure moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bova, all approved

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Storm Water Management Plan

Mr. Stoneback presented the draft guide to the Utilities Commission. It was presented last night to the Environment Board and will be presented to Parking and Transportation on October 23rd and Citizens' Greener Evanston on October 30th. After he receives feedback the proposed guide will be brought back to the Utilities Commission on November 8th, and it will then be presented to the City Council on December 9th to accept and place on file. Chair Nieuwsma said the Commission will review the draft guide and vote on support of it at the November meeting.

b. Street Lighting

No action was taken.

c. Nicor

Chair Nieuwsma said Nicor Gas representative, Patricia Eaves, has confirmed that Nicor will be able to provide natural gas data in Excel format rather than PDF format to property owners.

d. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Mr. Jensen provided a power point presentation detailing different ideas and approaches the City could take in their next aggregation contract, and examples of what other communities, such as Oak Park, currently have in

their electricity aggregation contract. He discussed next steps with the Commission and whether the City should hire a consultant to act as an adviser to the RFP process. Mr. Skey said he is not convinced that a consultant is needed at this time as Mr. Jensen seems to be very well versed in these issues. Mr. Jensen will bring a purchase timeline to the November Commission meeting.

e. Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP): Net Zero Energy

Mr. Jensen introduced Gabriela Martin, Program Director at the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and member of the Evanston CARP task force. Ms. Martin provided an overview presentation, Exploring Net Zero Energy Buildings. She said Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation is an independent, private charitable organization created in 1999 with an endowment of \$225 million from the Commonwealth Edison Company. They provide grants to local governments and charitable organizations within Illinois. Their mission is to invest in clean energy development and land preservation through grant programs. She explained the benefits of Net Zero Energy Buildings and cited several Illinois case studies and emerging lessons learned from them. She said that the Net Zero cost in these case studies added about 10% to total construction costs in this market where the concepts are newer; in other areas where design/build firms are more experienced with net zero, the additional cost is much less. Ms. Martin said that they will have their Net Zero Energy Program next year as well. The funding details are still being worked out but \$2 million is potentially the cap for a project. Additional assistance is also available from Seventh Wave Accelerate Performance Program, ComEd New Construction Service, ComEd Solar Rebates and Incentives, and Ameren Illinois.

Chair Nieuwsma said the Commission will continue to do further research and review policies from other communities around the country, and have a draft policy ready in January. Mr. Jensen recommended that the policy speak to both new construction and retrofits for City properties.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Second Term Reappointments

Chair Nieuwsma said the Commission members that are currently on their second term should have been reappointed by the Mayor, since none were, they will be retroactively validated.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

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

Staff reports for September were provided in the meeting packet. No action was taken.

**b. Water & sewer fund capital improvement project status
Treated Water Storage Replacement**

CIP Status Report for September was provided in the meeting packet. No action was taken.

c. Skokie rate litigation

The federal judge denied Skokie's request to have the case heard in federal court. Therefore, the case reverts back to the state court.

d. Lincolnwood water project status

The City awarded the construction of the transmission main within Evanston to Bolder Contractors, and they will start next month. Lincolnwood awarded their contract for construction of the transmission main as well.

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

Morton Grove/Niles is having issues with their infrastructure, a lot of which has to do with their concrete storage tank near Menards. Therefore, things are not going as fast as they were hoping. They are hoping to begin receiving more water in November, but they probably will not receive their full water supply from Evanston until December.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

Chair Nieuwsma announced that the MWRD is hosting an Open House at the O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant on Saturday, October 19th. There will also be two public tours of the Evanston Water Treatment Plant on Saturday, October 12th.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency