



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Everhart, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure,
M. White
Staff Present: P. Albazi, K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. White moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg.

A voice vote was taken and the minutes of the October 9, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously, 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

A. Utilities Commission Membership

Chair Lanyon reminded the Commission that they are down one member since Dave Grumman's term expired last month, and asked that they try to think of a possible replacement and types of recruitment.

B. Forthcoming activities

Chair Lanyon announced that he will be giving a presentation on benchmarking tomorrow, November 14th at the Sustain Evanston event at the Ecology Center, and another upcoming event is Citizens' Greener Evanston Green Drinks on December 2nd at Curt's Café where there will be an update on the Green Building Ordinance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency initiative – Discussion of results of the stakeholders meeting on October 22 and preparation for the next meeting of the work group on December 8

Chair Lanyon reported that the October 22nd stakeholders meeting was a small group but, there was a good discussion and it went well. He said that the next meeting for the work group will be on December 8th. Mr. Jensen informed the Commission that he is trying to develop emission estimates for the building list that he created of approximately 700 buildings. The Community Development Department is going through that list trying to be more specific about what type of building each one is so when Mr. Kismohr is able to come up with some emission numbers he is requesting from the EPA, they will be able to make better estimates about what the emissions are for more specific building uses. If he is unsuccessful in getting those numbers he will go with the 65/35 breakdown on

electricity versus natural gas, and base the emissions estimates on that. He is hoping to have some of those numbers by December. He attended an energy benchmarking and energy codes conference last week in Minneapolis given by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) and Mr. Kismohr ran the benchmarking portion, which he found very insightful. He said that Minneapolis does not have a verification component of their ordinance like Chicago does and as a result, Minneapolis has spent a lot of internal staff time doing verification of the data that they are receiving to determine whether it is correct, and they should keep this in mind while considering whether or not to include verification in an ordinance. Mr. Jensen said that he went through a first draft of the ordinance with Gary Gerdes, Building and Inspection Services Manager and Mario Treto, Assistant Attorney in the Law Department last Tuesday. They made some alterations to the Chicago ordinance and looked at definitions in it, and how they could connect those back to Evanston's existing building and zoning codes. He said that over the next few weeks they are going to flush out some of the specifics that were talked about in the working group so they will have a fully structured ordinance that they can start having discussions about. Their goal is to have the ordinance ready by the beginning of December, provide a copy to the Commission members, and have it available for discussion at the working group meeting on December 8th. Mr. Jensen said that he also had an internal staff meeting yesterday where he gave a presentation about the progress of the Commission on developing this ordinance and talked about the potential staffing requirements and where those may fall in City operations.

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

No Action was taken.

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 several power outages in October. On October 7th three circuits went out affecting close to a thousand people but he does not know the cause of the outage yet. ComEd did not give sufficient notice of a scheduled five hour outage on October 23rd for tree removal and device installation. Mr. Stoneback reminded ComEd representative, Carlo Cavallaro that two week advanced written notice of scheduled outage and a telephone call the day before should be given to residents.

There were several basement back-ups in October all of which were determined to be private lateral problems.

There were two water main breaks which is fairly low for this time of year.

There were the normal number of permits obtained for both water service and sewer service repairs.

It is uncertain whether painting of the exterior of the south standpipe will be able to be finished due to weather. If the work is not too loud he will try to get Alderman Miller's approval to allow crews to work on Sundays. If they are not able to finish the exterior work, a \$30,000 change order will be needed to complete it next spring. He received bids for the lining of the water main on Sheridan Road and will be taking a recommendation to the next council meeting. He received proposals from three engineering firms to design the replacement of the finished water reservoir, and will be reviewing those proposals and making the recommendation at the first council meeting in January. Mulford Street sewer lining through James Park is out to bid now, and he worked with the CTA and was able to survey and get the location of the combined sewer for which they cannot find the easement. It appears that the location of the combined sewer is within the easement that they have for the relief sewer, and if that is the case, they will modify the existing easement to include the combined sewer, then they will be able to work with the CTA to get the section of Mulford from the end of James Park to the canal lined at a later date. All of the bigger projects are still moving along well.

- B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers**
Negotiations with the potential new wholesale water customers remain ongoing.
- C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Ideas on development of a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings**
Mr. Jensen reported that the City has accepted the revised MWRD Rain Barrel Intergovernmental agreement and have begun processing orders from Evanston property owners, but are waiting until spring to have an outreach campaign.
- 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**
- 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**
- 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**

- 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**
- E. Reorganization of the Utilities Department – Status report and future role of the Utilities Commission**
Mr. Stoneback said they are still working on the reorganization. All Bureau Chiefs have been appointed except for the Water Bureau Chief, but they have completed interviews and are close to making an offer. He informed the Commission that there will be a presentation on the city-wide reorganization including the Public Works Agency at the November 23rd City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant
Utilities Department