



APPROVED

UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Everhart, D. Grumman, D. Lanyon, E. Rosenberg, M. White
Members Absent: J. Nieuwsma, R. Shure
Guest Present: J. Freeman
Staff Present: 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 7:16 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Everhart moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. White.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

A. Utilities Commission Member Final Meeting

Chair Lanyon announced that David Grumman has served two consecutive terms on the Commission and today will be his last Commission meeting. The Commission thanked Mr. Grumman for his years of service.

B. Forthcoming Utilities Department activities

Mr. Stoneback announced that there are two public tours of the Water Treatment Plant scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2015.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency initiative – Discussion of preparation for the third meeting of the work group on October 6 and the second meeting of the stakeholders on October 22, also update on the building inventory

Mr. Jensen informed the Commission that the October 6th working group meeting mostly consisted of talks relating to the data they have for the commercial and residential building stock that they were able to pull together with the help of the GIS Department for approximately 700 commercial and residential properties in Evanston that are estimated to be 20,000 square feet or above. He said that there was one actual property manager who attended the meeting that was not from Northwestern or the hospital, which he found to be beneficial. Mr. Jensen provided a slide show presentation to the Commission, and explained the breakdown of the different categories listed for the building stock for properties 20,000 square feet and above that was taken from spacial imagery, which is not always accurate, rental registration, and user submitted information for properties

who were already participating in benchmarking. He said that he will provide this slide show presentation at the next stakeholders meeting on October 22nd.

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 was a power outage on September 23rd due to underground failure and cable fault in Wilmette that affected Evanston residents that lasted for 45 minutes.

ComEd has begun installing smart meters in Evanston and they will be presenting at the October 19th Council meeting.

There was a water main break on September 14th, but there was no additional information regarding the service interruption listed on the report. He will have the report corrected for the next meeting.

There were several basement back-ups in September, and they were all determined to be private lateral problems.

There was only one permit for water service repairs obtained, and a fairly high number of sewer service repair permits obtained in September.

Most of the 2015 improvement projects have been completed. The north standpipe work took longer than anticipated due to the humid weather this summer, but they are now working on the south standpipe and he anticipates that work will be completed before the cold weather sets in. The Sheridan Road Water Main project has been repackaged and is currently out to bid. He met with the CTA to get the easement reestablished for the large diameter sewer project on Mulford Street, and is hoping to get a surveyor out there to confirm that it is the CTA's right of way. They are moving ahead with the project but will only do the part of Mulford Street where access is available, and will do the rest next year.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback reported that 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 informed the Commission that the rain barrel agreement with the MWRD for residential use will go to Council on Monday, October 12th.

D. Chloride water quality initiative status

Mr. Stoneback reported that the Illinois Pollution Control Board has an upcoming meeting on this initiative, and the City's Legal Department is now involved.

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 – Response to the memo to the City Manager**
Chair Lanyon welcomed City Manager Bobkiewicz to the Commission meeting. City Manager Bobkiewicz informed the Commission that the Utilities Department and Public Works Department used to be one department that was split up several years ago. Since that time Public Works grew bigger with the addition of parks maintenance and forestry. He said that as Illinois is doing their budget, the City is doing assessments and making changes to their budget as well, and it makes sense to refigure a new agency to better serve city residents. Mr. Stoneback is to lead the new Public Works Agency, which will consist of four separate bureaus, each of which will have a Bureau Chief. Three of the Bureau Chiefs and one interim chief have already been named, and should be able to work independently of the director. Mr. Stoneback will also continue to be the primary staff liaison for the Utilities Commission. Mr. Stoneback said that some changes will be made to employee positions to contain costs, and everything should be in place hopefully by Thanksgiving, but definitely by January 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant, Utilities Department