



APPROVED

UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2015, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure
Members Absent: D. Everhart, M. White
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 AUGUST 14, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Nieuwsma moved to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. Shure.

A voice vote was taken and the minutes of the August 14, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously, 4-0 with one abstention.

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 in September and the second meeting of the stakeholders**
Mr. Jensen said that he received data from the Cook County Assessor's Office via CD two weeks ago by way of Alderman Miller, and he has sent back some questions on what they provided. He has been looking at the data, and removing exempt and vacant properties. He will compile a modified list of the data, and reach out to more property owners and their managers before the next working group meeting on Tuesday, October 6th. He stated that all City facilities should be benchmarked by the end of the year. Mr. Jensen said that he has met with Lee Kulman, School District 65 Industrial Arts Teacher and Energy Manager/Specialist, who has expressed interest in being involved in this initiative, and he will meet with Steve Kismohr, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA). Mr. Kumar said that he received a few responses from the working group about the blank Evanston policy template he distributed based on the Matrix on US Cities Benchmarking Ordinances, and most of the recommendations were similar to Chicago's ordinance. He stated that the next stakeholders meeting will be on Thursday, 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**

Mr. Freeman provided the Commission with an analysis of the City's street lighting information via e-mail, which indicates a 32.4% reduction. Mr. Stoneback said that he will forward the e-mail to Tom Twigg, HVAC & Electrical Supervisor, Public Works Department and ask him to create a summary table of invoices to verify that the City is actually paying the reduction. Mr. Stoneback said that they should now focus on traffic signal lighting.

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 quite a few power outages in August. There was a big outage on August 18th due to squirrel contact, and the other outages were weather related. He noted that circuit C4710 had several outages in two days and he e-mailed Carlo Cavallaro about it. Mr. Cavallaro was not sure exactly what had happened but indicated that whatever it was had been corrected.

There were several basement backups that were determined to be private lateral issues, and one that was due to a rain event.

There were no water main breaks in August, and he noted that it has been an exceptionally low year for water main breaks.

There were several sewer repair permits obtained in August, which has become the standard for the last two years, and only one water service repair permit was obtained.

All of the 2015 projects are moving along pretty well. The north standpipe painting is complete, and work on the south standpipe should start soon. Council has awarded the rehabilitation of clearwells 1 & 2 to Walsh Construction and it will be completed by the end of the year. The water main replacement is finished on Dempster Street and on Dodge Avenue, and the water main lining on Pitner Avenue is complete. He will be meeting with the engineer on the Sheridan Road water main lining project and hopes to go out to bid in a month, and then award the contract in November, but the work will not start until February or March 2016. The manhole for the large diameter sewer project on Mulford Street is in the CTA right of way. The CTA agrees that at some point in time (about one hundred years ago) there was an easement but neither the CTA nor the City has been able to find it. Therefore, a new easement will have to be recreated. They are moving forward with the project but will only do the part of Mulford where access is available.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback said that negotiations with the potential new wholesale water customers remain ongoing, and that he will be meeting with Morton Grove and Niles after today's Utilities Commission meeting. The City of Chicago has offered a ten year extension to the NSMJAWA contract, but he thinks that NSMJAWA is still considering Evanston's offer.

C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Ideas on development of a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings

Mr. Jensen stated that water usage is being included in benchmarking City facilities along with other utilities.

D. Chloride water quality initiative status

Mr. Stoneback said that the MWRD has sent out another survey identical to the previous one they sent out in 2014, to determine if there were any differences in practices. Mr. Stoneback reported that the City's legal counsel had their preliminary hearing with the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Work plan item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Proposed 2016 capital improvement budget

Mr. Stoneback provided the Commission with a copy of the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Summary. He briefly explained each of the proposed projects, and said that it will be presented at Council for approval soon. Chair Lanyon said that the Commission would provide a letter in support of the CIP Summary, if needed.

B. Public Works/Utilities Department Reorganization Update

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City Council approved the reorganization of the Public Works Department and the Utilities Department into the new Public Works Agency at the City Council meeting on August 31st.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Executive Secretary, Utilities Department