



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2015, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Everhart, D. Lanyon, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure, M. White
Members Absent: D. Grumman, J. Nieuwsma
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Guest Present: S. Kismohr
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 JULY 10, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. White moved to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2015 meeting, seconded by Mr. Everhart.

A voice vote was taken and the minutes of the July 10, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously, 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

A. Forthcoming Utilities Department activities

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency initiative – Discussion of preparation for the second meeting of the work group on August 18

Mr. Jensen said that there were approximately 10 people at the July 14th working group meeting. He said that they discussed preliminary things, such as why an ordinance was being developed, and understanding the different parts of an ordinance. Mr. Jensen said that he distributed a blank Evanston policy template to the working group based on the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) Matrix on US Cities Benchmarking Ordinances provided by Mr. Kismohr, and asked that they complete it based on their existing knowledge. Mr. Jensen said that the City's GIS Intern was able to update the Building Stock Estimate spreadsheet for approximately 120 buildings using existing GIS layers and Google, but it is a rough list that still needs to be verified. He said that he has also requested a list of information from the Cook County Assessor's Office by way of Alderman Miller, and he has received a list of US Green Building Council (USGBC) buildings in Evanston, which largely are on Northwestern University's property. Mr. Jensen said that GBA Architects & Engineers has offered to do pro bono data verification for the City's internal facilities; he has just received their Scope of Services and is reviewing it now. Mr. Stoneback said that the Scope of Services is also being reviewed by the City Manager's Office and the Law

Department. Mr. Jensen said that he will provide any updated information that he has, discuss the responses he received, and provide the Building Stock update at the working group meeting on August 18th. Mr. Stoneback said that he would provide a pamphlet at the meeting about the City's website Data Portal, and he will check with the vendor to see if they can provide a demonstration.

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. Stoneback said that there has been no action on this initiative, as he is waiting to hear back from Mr. Freeman.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns and Water Service Interruptions, chloride water quality initiative and status of 2015 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

A power outage occurred on July 6th when a wire was downed by lightning near Arcadia and Prairie, another outage occurred on July 14th when a cable was hit by a contractor working at Seward and Custer, and a third outage occurred on July 18th due to a large rain event.

There were no water main breaks in July.

The usual amount of basement backups occurred in July. All but one was determined to be due to private lateral issues.

There were no permits obtained for water service repairs in July, and the usual amount of permits were obtained for sewer service repairs.

The 48" Intake Improvement project is now 100% complete. The Finished Water Reservoir Improvements project is moving ahead. He is working on the RFP for the reservoir at this time, but the lowest bidder for the rehabilitation of clearwells 1 & 2 does not comply with the City's Local Employment Program (LEP). Therefore, council approval will be needed to award the contract to the second lowest bidder. The Pitner Avenue Water Main Lining project was completed yesterday. All of the rest of the projects are moving along slowly.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback reported that negotiations with the potential new wholesale water customers remain ongoing. He will be meeting with the NWC and NSMJAWA on August 18th, and with Niles and Morton Grove on August 21st.

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 received a revised agreement from the MWRD for the Rain Barrel Program with no requirements for downspout disconnections. He said that the agreement appears to be pretty straightforward, but it will need to be discussed at council.

Mr. Stoneback stated that since the last RFP for the Low Flow Toilet Replacement Program did not receive any proposals, and there are very few of the high capacity toilets still in use in Evanston, they will not proceed with this program.

D. ComEd franchise agreement status

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City Council has approved the ordinance granting a five year extension of the electricity franchise agreement with ComEd.

E. Chloride water quality initiative status

Mr. Stoneback said that the MWRD has formed several committees for this initiative. He said that Jim Maiworm, Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance, Public Works Department, is on the Salt Committee, and they will be discussing limiting the use of salt on streets by using beet juice.

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. Work plan item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – item pending proposed 2016 budget**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Price
Executive Secretary
Utilities Department