



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

Friday, November 8, 2019, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure,
C. Skey
Guests Present: J. Freeman, P. Morse, T. Partel
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, C. Ruiz, D. Stoneback
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 OCTOBER 11, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

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

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Building energy efficiency benchmarking update

Mr. Jensen provided an update memo and noted that the biggest change between last month's memo and this one is that Northwestern University has now submitted data for all of their properties. The City was able to make contact with all Type 1 and Type 2 buildings so no tickets were issued. All Type 1 buildings except for some of Northwestern's buildings that had issues are now compliant. Appropriate contact information for all Type 3 buildings has been identified and additional notices have been sent. Since it is getting close to the end of the year and the reporting links will be taken down he does not expect them to actually submit this year. He said the City is pretty lenient in their first year but he wanted to make contact with each building owner so they know next year it is a requirement and the City will be pursuing them.

b. Community Choice Electricity Aggregation

Mr. Jensen provided a power point presentation detailing the purchase timeline. He is anticipating releasing an RFP for a fairly standard aggregation program by the end of the year. Two RFPs will actually be released; one for indicative pricing which they receive the full proposals on and determines how they will evaluate who is recommended to City Council for award, and then the day of the City Council meeting an RFP will be released for actionable pricing back to the recommended supplier and that is the actual final price that is included in the contract. The Commission will review the RFP before it is released.

c. Climate Action & Resilience Plan/Net Zero Energy Policy

Mr. Jensen referred to the Net Zero Emission Policy timeline, noting that Gabriela Martin, Program Director at the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation spoke at the October Utilities Commission meeting. For November he would like the Commission to review policies from other cities and organizations, and also to talk about clear definitions of the standard and/or terms being referred to. They will continue this conversation in December and in January start to draft what the actual resolution will look like. Mr. Jensen said City staff is aiming to release the RFP to hire a consultant to develop a strategy prior to the next Commission meeting and will provide the Commission with a copy before it goes out.

d. Storm Water Management Plan

Mr. Stoneback reported that staff has taken the draft guide to the Environment Board, the Utilities Commission, Parking and Transportation and a group from Citizens' Greener Evanston, and each board/group provided their input. He plans on presenting the guide to the City Council on December 9th to accept and place on file.

e. Street Lighting Study

No action was taken.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Rooftop solar permitting

Mr. Jensen introduced Carlos Ruiz, Preservation Coordinator for the City of Evanston. He said earlier this year the City started to see a spike in solar permits and started having a conversation around solar permits on historically significant structures. The Preservation Commission started getting proposals and questions from property owners who would like to install solar panels on their buildings, and they realized they were lacking some comprehensive guidance as to how they should be reviewing them particularly in relation to the City's climate action plan goals and did not want to be seen as being in conflict with that. They requested more information about the CARP goals and how other communities have addressed permitting in historic districts. Mr. Jensen and Mr. Ruiz are recommending the creation of a short term task force that would be made up of up to two representatives from the Environment Board, Utilities Commission and Preservation Commission respectively. Office of Sustainability and Preservation City staff would provide administrative support to the task force. Mr. Shure and Mr. Bova volunteered to serve on the task force on behalf of the Utilities Commission.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

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

There were several power outages in October, three of which were due to damaged power lines.

All basement backups this year were determined to be private lateral issues except for one.

There were no water main breaks in October.

The number of Sewer Service Repair permits obtained peaked in October and there was one Water Service Repair permit obtained.

**b. Water & sewer fund capital improvement project status
Lincolnwood Connection and Meter Vault**

Work began on October 21st, with traffic control in place on October 28th. The contractor is scheduled to mobilize on October 15th. Staff is working with aldermen, businesses, and residents to mitigate the impact of traffic control. Service connections, hydrant connections, and exploration trenches are being completed this week. Installation of the pipeline is scheduled for November, weather dependent.

2019 Sewer CIPP Rehabilitation

Cleaning and televising is scheduled to begin November 4th. Lining work should proceed in November, weather dependent.

Main Street Commons

Construction is scheduled to be complete in November, with final pavement scheduled for the week of November 3rd, and street lights, traffic signals, and final landscaping to follow after that.

Drainage Structure Lining

Contract documents have been re-issued and work is proceeding. A change order will be issued to extend the contract time now that the contractor has mobilized again.

c. Skokie rate litigation

The federal judge denied Skokie's request to have their case heard in federal court. Therefore, the case reverts back to the state court and will be heard in February. Skokie is appealing the decision but the state is moving forward.

d. Lincolnwood water project status

The City awarded the construction of the transmission main within Evanston to Bolder Contractors. Lincolnwood has awarded their contract for construction of the transmission main as well.

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

Screening on the fence surrounding the project has been taken down, and they are still working on the SCADA system.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

Chair Nieuwsma announced that the Commission members serving second terms have all now been officially reappointed. Washington Elementary School 3rd grade tours of the water plant are scheduled for today.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency