



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, M. White
Members Absent: D. Everhart, M. Landis
Staff Present: C. Hurley, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Guests Present: J. Freeman, R. Shure
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 10, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Nieuwsma moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 10, 2014 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg. A voice vote was taken and the October 10, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Forthcoming Utilities Department activities**
There were no announcements or communications.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency white paper and update on status of city database**
Chair Lanyon said that he will revise the white paper to include the percentage of buildings that would be involved depending on square footage, and send it to the Environment Board for their review. It will be presented to the City Council in March.
- b. **Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Status of draft report on water conservation at five city facilities**
Mr. Freeman said that he did not have any new information at this time.
- c. **Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Mr. Stoneback will present the status of the recommended five-year plan and projects for the 2015 budget**
Mr. Stoneback reported that none of the proposed projects were cut from the 2015 budget, and he expects the budget to be officially approved by the council as is, in November. He stated that an ordinance for a 10% water rate increase was introduced at the last council meeting and will go to the next Council meeting for action. If passed, the rate increase would go into effect in January.

d. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Status of efforts to select circuits for testing

Mr. Stoneback said that ComEd informed him that all of the street light fixture accounts have been updated, and he believes that the City should see a lower bill next month as a result. He will ask Mr. Batara for copies of the bills and a list of the fixtures being charged, and will work with Mr. Freeman and Mr. Twigg to confirm that ComEd's updates are correct. He will also find out where he can rent a portable power meter to test the street lights.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns and Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2014 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There were several power outages in October but, most were scheduled for tree trimming. He will work with Ms. Hurley to provide a summary of the outages based on frequency and duration for the outages during the first 6 months. He noted that the full list of outages for 2014 won't be provided until April 2015.

There were three water main breaks in October, two of which were on the 2600 block of Ashland so the department will be keeping a closer eye on that water main. He said that A-Lamp Construction Company caused the other main break while they were performing work.

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

There were the normal amount of basement backups, most of which were determined to be private lateral problems, and a few were due to rainfall.

The three roofing projects at the Water Treatment Plant and the Water Main Replacement project have been completed. The Chlorine Equipment Replacement project is in progress now, and the AMI Replacement Program is wrapping up. The work on the 48" intake project was going slowly as a result of needing to remove the old system prior to placing the new system. The contractor was successful in removing all of the old system, but will not install the new system until next spring. A draft report of the Treated Water Storage Planning Study has been submitted. The report indicates that the plant currently has adequate treated water storage volume, that more storage volume is not needed.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

The Commission members welcomed City Manager Bobkiewicz to the meeting. The City Manager thanked the Commission members for their service on the Commission and provided them with an update on the status of ongoing negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers.

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

Ms. Hurley said that her Fellow, Kumar Jensen, has been working on the Low Flow Toilet Replacement Program and it will be up for approval at the next council meeting. Mr. Stoneback said that the website portal for residents to check their water usage online is not ready yet but, should be up and running soon.

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. **Franchise Agreement with ComEd**
Mr. Stoneback announced that the city's franchise agreement with ComEd will end on September 12, 2015. Chair Lanyon asked for volunteers for a sub-committee to start working on a new franchise agreement. Messrs. Grumman, Nieuwsma and White volunteered to sit on the sub-committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Price
Executive Secretary
Utilities Department