



APPROVED

UTILITIES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, M. Smith
Members Absent: N. Fracasso, M. Landis, E. Rosenberg
Staff Present: C. Hurley, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Guest Present: J. Freeman
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:17 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the November 8, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

a. Forthcoming Utilities Department activities

Mr. Stoneback said that in 2014 the City will be celebrating 100 years of clean safe water, and will have that logo imprinted on the water bottles that are distributed at events. He reported that the City will be hosting the West Shore Water Producers Association meeting at the Water Treatment Plant on July 24th, and there will be an Open House at the Water Plant on July 26th for the public, which will be attended by the Mayor and will include tours of the plant. He said that there will also be the usual public tours of the Water Treatment Plant in the spring and fall of 2014.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency ordinance and white paper

Mr. Smith thanked the Commission members for reviewing the draft white paper and said that the draft is in line with the Invitation to Climate Action Plan. He said that he feels that benchmarking can produce some significant energy conservation, and that the idea is to present the draft to the City Council as one of the first steps in developing an ordinance. Mr. Stoneback said that they should have information ready to give to the Council with an idea of how many commercial buildings would be involved, what the cost would be for those buildings, and the staff time that would be involved. He offered to set up a meeting with Mark Muenzer, Director of Community & Economic Development, to see if he can provide data on the number of buildings.

b. Work Plan Item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Status of pump efficiency testing on December 3rd

Mr. Freeman said that Mr. Rosenberg and he attended the early steps of the pump efficiency testing, and that MWH Americas were collecting data on the

pump efficiency and updating their report from 2007. Mr. Stoneback said that MWH Americas will submit the updated report by the end of this month, so he will have it for the January Commission meeting.

c. 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 Aukeman report

Chair Lanyon said that there is no progress to report at this time.

d. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Report meetings at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Freeman said that he met with Bob Dorneker and Kevin Wallin for a tour of the water using devices at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. He said that there did not seem to be any obvious targets of energy waste or water conservation, and that usage was primarily due to the number of people in and out of the building for the many activities there. He said that out of the five facilities that he has toured, he thinks that the Robert Crown Center has the biggest opportunity for water conservation related to the Zambonis used for ice rink maintenance.

e. Work Plan Item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City

Chair Lanyon said that the Commission decided to set his report aside at the last meeting due to the Complete and Green Right of Ways Resolution. Ms. Hurley said that the draft resolution will be adopted so the Utilities Commission has accomplished what they wanted and there is no more work to be done on it.

f. Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure

Mr. Stoneback reported that the 2014 budget, including the capital improvement program, was approved by the city council as proposed.

g. Work Plan Item 2.4 Evaluate the potential impact of pending USEPA sewer/water regulations on the sewer system and water treatment plant

No action was taken.

h. Program to incorporate local renewable energy and/or efficiency benefits in the next aggregation contract after 2013 and the city facilities contract

Mr. Stoneback said that the indicative pricing Request for Proposal for the 23 city owned buildings went out, and the proposals are supposed to be submitted back to the City on January 3rd. He said that they will look them over and decide how to proceed, and then on go out for actual pricing on January 9th and receive the bids on January 13th which coincides with the City Council meeting. Mr. Stoneback will schedule a subcommittee meeting of interested commission members to review the proposals.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns and Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2013 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback said that there was only one reported power outage and one additional outage that he was made aware of through 311 calls. He noted that power outages this year have been the lowest that Evanston has ever had.

Mr. Stoneback said that there was one water main break in November, which was caused by a contractor hitting the water main.

Mr. Stoneback said that there were several basement backups over Thanksgiving that they were determined to be private lateral problems.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback said that Glenview is now interested and are trying to partner with Morton Grove, Niles, and Park Ridge to purchase water as a group. He said that he has worked out the cost of service to provide water using three different scenarios, and that he has also asked MWH Americas to update the transmission main study to determine the cost to install a transmission main based on those same three scenarios.

c. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Status of actions to implement recommendations in CMAP report and develop a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings

Ms. Hurley said that the Commission should get something on paper showing what the requirements should be and how efficient it would be to make upgrades, and then have the City Manager approve it so it can distributed it to all of the departments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Input from city Public Works staff on the proposal to measure listing supplied to ComEd

Mr. Stoneback said that he has not had a chance to contact Tom Twigg yet He said that due to the cold weather he thinks that it would be best to do the measuring in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

It was moved and seconded that Richard Lanyon be nominated for Chair and David Grumman be nominated for Vice-Chair. A voice vote was taken for each nomination and it was unanimously approved to elect Mr. Lanyon as Chair and it was approved with one abstention to elect Mr. Grumman as Vice-Chair.

b. Required annual report

Chair Lanyon said that he will draft the annual status update report on the Commission's Work Plan for the Administration & Public Works Committee, and have it ready for review at the next Utilities Commission meeting. Chair Lanyon announced that Mr. Smith's second term on the Commission will expire in February 2014 so the Commission will have a vacant position. Ms. Hurley said that she would post the vacancy on the Evanston Green Buzz website.

c. Water Bill Modifications

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Mr. Stoneback said that the water bills now show the conversion of water meter reads from 100 cubic feet to gallons for residents, and they can now compare their usage to the average usage per person in Evanston. He said that a donation box will also be added on the water bills to give residents different donating opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Executive Secretary
Utilities Department