



APPROVED

UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2013, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St,
Large Conference Room

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

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:08 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 12, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the July 12, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the 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 rating system – Next steps – Report on meeting with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce and discussion of next steps**
Chair Lanyon referred to the Building Energy Use Benchmarking Ordinance of the City of Chicago that was distributed to the Commission members, and asked for their thoughts on whether to continue to focus on identifying the top twenty buildings or to draft their own ordinance to recommend to the City Council. It was unanimously agreed that the Commission will change their focus to drafting an ordinance tailored to Evanston's needs.
- b. **Work Plan Item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Status of additional response from Baxter & Woodman**
Ms. Biggs said that Baxter & Woodman submitted a memo to Mr. Stoneback but, he is on vacation and has not had a chance to look at it yet.
- 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 Ms. Hurley is not at the meeting today to provide an update but, that the Commission needs to begin to contact City staff to find out what improvements have been made and compare it to the usage that is in the database. He said that there is currently three years of data for about a dozen facilities in the database, and that he will ask Mr. Stoneback and Ms. Hurley for the names of the City staff to contact for the information.
- d. **Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Report on meeting with the Robert Crown Center**

Mr. Freeman reported that Chair Lanyon and he met with Bob Dorneker, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Service, and Nanci Fragassi, Operations Manager at the Robert Crown Center, and presented them with the hourly water usage that was collected from February. He said that they maintain the ice for the ice rinks with the Zamboni machine, which is a big tank of heated water, and that it is sometimes used as much as on an hourly basis to restore the surface of the ice. He said that the process could be more streamlined, and if they could reduce the use of the Zamboni they would reduce water and gas consumption as well. Mr. Freeman said that he wants to collect more hourly data for the summer season to be able to compare it with the data for the winter season. He said that hundreds of people go through the building each day so bathroom usage is high but, he believes that the Zamboni is the key focal point for opportunities to conserve. Mr. Freeman said that he asked Mr. Stoneback for more hourly data and for a longer duration for the Robert Crown Center, the Civic Center, the Library, the Fire Department Head Quarters, and the Noyes Cultural Arts Center.

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 Mr. Stoneback indicated that there is a GIS layer on the green infrastructure that the City has installed, and that he will ask him for a demonstration of it at a future meeting.

f. Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Report on meeting with A&PW Committee on proposed projects for 2014

Ms. Biggs reported that Mr. Stoneback presented the needs of the Utilities Department to the A&PW on July 22nd. She said that due to two significant Capital Improvement projects that are coming up, the reservoir replacement and replacement of the 36" water main on Sherman Avenue, which is a major feeder to the downtown area and south Evanston, and an increase in operating costs that he would propose three 10% rate increases over three years. Ms. Biggs said that the first 10% rate increase will be proposed as part of the budget for 2014, and then the Council would vote on it as to whether or not it was accepted. She noted that the 10% rate increase is not 10% of the total bill but rather 10% of water consumption, and that there will be a slight decrease in the sewer rate that will somewhat offset the 10% water rate increase.

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 next steps

Mr. Nieuwsma reported that the new rates became effective on August 1st. He said that Ms. Hurley will present her Annual Climate Action Plan Update to the City Council on September 16th and set the table for future discussions with the Council about the next steps to be taken.

STAFF REPORTS

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

Ms. Biggs reported that there was only one power outage in July.

Ms. Biggs stated that there were eight basement backups and that all of them were determined to be private lateral problems.

Ms. Biggs said that there were seven water main breaks in July, which is average for this time of year. She said that there were three water main breaks on Madison Street which puts it on the radar for replacement but, it is not considered critical until there are five or more breaks. She said that there were six water main breaks on one section of on water main on Prairie Avenue, and that it will be replaced next year. Ms. Biggs noted that the street resurfacing project that was supposed to be done on Prairie Avenue this year has been stopped and will now be done next year after the water main has been replaced. Ms. Biggs said that the water main program for next year is being finalized and she anticipates that it will be presented to City Council at the September 9th meeting.

Ms. Biggs reported that the Water Main project is moving along, the Large Diameter Sewer Lining project is just about finished, Contract A for the Small Diameter Sewer project is complete and a second contract has been awarded and will begin in late September. She said that she is working on a loan application for some more sections of large diameter sewer for next year on Central Park, and on Main Street. Ms. Biggs said that bids were received recently for a project on Flow Metering that came in very high so, they are looking at ways to get the cost down and send it out to bid again. She said that the Chemical Feed bid is separate and will be done after the Flow Meter project is done. She said that they just received approval from the Army Corps of Engineers for the 48" Intake project and, it will now be done next fall. Ms. Biggs noted that the Chlorine Replacement project is a separate project, and said that the pre-design was just finished and she anticipates that it will go out to be bid in late fall or early winter. She said that they have received proposals for the Electrical Study and that they are going to recommend Greeley & Hansen as the preferred consultant when it goes to Council for approval on August 12th.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Ms. Biggs reported that the Village of Lincolnwood has submitted a counter proposal to purchase water from the City. She said that it was very low compared to Evanston's proposal and Mr. Stoneback will present it to the City Council but he will not recommend it. Ms. Biggs said that the Northwest Water Commission has voted to extend their current contract with the City by five years. She reported that the Village of Glenview has talked to the City Manager about entering into the consortium to purchase water from Evanston.

c. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Status of actions to implement recommendations in CMAP report

There was no update since Ms. Hurley was not present at the meeting.

d. Status of the second year contract for community aggregation electrical energy supply

Mr. Nieuwsma stated that the new rates became effective on August 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Suggestions for use of proceeds from the sale of water to new customers

There were no suggestions.

b. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Discussion of new initiative in preparation for the September meeting with Thomas Twigg

Mr. Freeman stated that there are three pieces to the street lighting; the power and consumption, the duration, and the price. Chair Lanyon said that the City pays a calculated amount but, in the interest of conservation the electrical usage should be reduced by not having the street lights on when they are not needed. Chair Lanyon said

that Mr. Twigg will be at the September Utilities Commission meeting, and will be asked to walk the Commission members through the billing process.

c. MS4 Permit

Ms. Biggs announced that the MS4 Permit is due for renewal on September 30th. She said that the permit application will be ready by the end of August and will be made available for public review and comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Executive Secretary
Utilities Department