



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St,
Large Conference Room

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

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:19 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March 8, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved with a minor change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

a. Forthcoming Utilities Department activities

Mr. Stoneback announced that the Utilities Department is having two public tours of the Water Treatment Plant on June 8th and 22nd. He said that they are also constructing a water trailer for use at future events.

b. Utilities Commission membership

Chair Lanyon announced that Mr. Thadhani's membership will expire in April and that Mr. Rosenberg has applied for the vacant seat. He said that the recommendation for his appointment will be on the agenda for the City Council's approval on April 22nd.

c. CMAP suggestion to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Mr. Stoneback reported that CMAP suggested to the IDNR that the Allowable Leakage Limit be removed. He said that this would place basically every municipality within the area in violation, so most municipalities are opposing it. He said that Evanston has submitted a position that the amount of leakage on water main less than 20 years old could be removed. Mr. Stoneback said that he will send a copy of Evanston's position to the Utilities Commission members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy rating system – Next steps – Meeting scheduled with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce

Chair Lanyon said that his meeting with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce Executive Board has been rescheduled for April 22nd.

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

Mr. Stoneback said that he sent another email requesting a date when they would submit their final report, but has not received a response yet.

- c. Work Plan Item 1.3 Develop a baseline for energy consumption in municipal buildings update – Status of energy consumption database and update of the Aukeman report**
Ms. Hurley said that the City has an account in Energy Star Portfolio Manager and that another intern has been hired to start inputting the data they already have and updating the data that is missing. Mr. Stoneback said that he would ask Mr. Batara if ComEd could provide an electronic transfer of the missing data at the next Technical Review Group (TRG) meeting.
- d. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Response to questionnaire for additional water consumption data for city-owned buildings**
Chair Lanyon said that Paul D’Agostino, Superintendent of Parks, Forestry, and Facilities Management, is handling this questionnaire. He said that he does not have the results yet but hopes to have it by next week. Chair Lanyon said once he has the response he would like to schedule more visits, and is due to visit the library again in May.
- e. Work Plan Item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Plan to utilize the recommended strategies in the report from Hey & Associates**
Mr. Stoneback said that the information is now on the City’s website. Ms. Hurley said that the Environment Board is embarking on working with the Public Works Department to help develop a Complete Streets Ordinance.
- f. Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Status of implementing projects approved for the 2013 budget**
Mr. Stoneback said that he received a preliminary study from Carollo Engineers on the 48” Intake Improvement project, and that the project is moving along fairly quickly. He said that the City Council approved the recommendation to hire Greeley and Hansen for the Chlorine Equipment Replacement project and S.A.K. for the CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation project. Mr. Stoneback said that the contract for the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation project was awarded to Insituform Technologies, and that they have already lined the sewers on Central Street and on Davis Street. He said that Insituform was also awarded the other Large Diameter Rehabilitation project on Cleveland Street and the other half of Davis Street. He said that Davis Street has been completed and that they are working on Cleveland Street now, which should be completed next week, and then they will start on Emerson Street.
- 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.

STAFF REPORTS

- a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, and Water Service Interruptions**
Mr. Stoneback reported that there was one big power outage on March 13th. He said that the outage was due to a ComEd feeder line being hit while Howard Street was being excavated. He said that there was another outage on March 4th that was due to ComEd equipment failure.

Mr. Stoneback said that the basement backups that occurred in March were determined to be private lateral problems.

Mr. Stoneback said that there were three water main breaks in March. He noted that the water main break at 1731 Howard Street was the fourth break on that line so it has now moved its way up on the priority list to be replaced and that he will be monitoring it.

Mr. Stoneback reported that there is a TRG meeting with ComEd scheduled for May 10th.

Mr. Stoneback said that he has met with Nicor's new Community Relations Manager twice so far and he will be meeting with her again today. He said that Nicor will be installing high pressure gas mains to replace the low pressure gas mains in southeast Evanston.

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City, as partners with Northwestern University, has locked into the purchase of natural gas for the time period of 9/1/14 through 8/31/15.

b. Potential New Wholesale Water Customers and Cost of Service – Status of engineering studies and/or negotiations

Mr. Stoneback said that the City expects to be making a rate offer to the Village of Lincolnwood by the end of April. He said that the partners are doing their due diligence at this time so it has become very challenging to lock anyone into serious negotiations.

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

Ms. Hurley said that the City is moving forward with getting water bottle filling stations at the Civic Center. She said that there is currently one pilot station located outside of the City Clerk's office. She said that they were included as part of the 3rd and 4th floor men's room construction project, which should be completed this spring.

Ms. Hurley reported that there are several activities and contests planned for National Drinking Water Week.

Ms. Hurley noted that modifications made to the water bills will help direct residents to water conservation by converting the old water usage format to gallons. She said that the Utilities Department will be going out to bid for a new company to print the water bills so there will more text areas for additional water conservation messaging and information.

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

Ms. Hurley said that the City Council approved the second year contract, and the September electric bills will reflect the new rate for August usage. Mr. Stoneback noted that everyone will receive the opt-out notices again and that residents with another supplier will receive a letter to opt-in.

NEW BUSINESS

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

APPROVED

Chair Lanyon said that this has not been worked on yet due to uncertainty on details to include in an RFP, but that Mr. Nieuwsma will lead the work to develop a specific project in time for the next contract.

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

Chair Lanyon said that the members should think of ideas and suggestions for the savings for the City Manager's approval to give to the City Council. He initiated the effort by passing out his suggestion for one initiative regarding inspection of private laterals.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Angela Price,

Executive Secretary
Utilities Department