



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, November 11, 2016, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, M. White
Members Absent: E. Rosenberg, R. Shure
Staff Present: K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Everhart moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. White.

The minutes were approved unanimously, 5-0.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

There were no announcements or communications.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency benchmarking initiative – report on additional outreach efforts and next action at City Council meeting on November 28

As directed by the City Council on September 26, Mr. Jensen has been doing outreach with the buildings that will be affected by the ordinance. He gave a short presentation and answered questions at a special 1st Ward meeting on October 18, and sent out individual invitation letters for the November 3 and November 8 drop-in sessions to the owners and building managers whose property will have to comply with the ordinance. He said the biggest opposition to the ordinance is from small condominium building boards. They have expressed confusion over what type of information the City would be tracking and are concerned that it would be burdensome for them to gather and report the required information. He has not heard any opposition from businesses or apartment buildings. Mr. Stoneback suggested that if it looks like the ordinance is not passing at the November 28 Council meeting; he could recommend removing small condominium buildings, amend the ordinance and bring it back to Council. The Commission agreed with Mr. Stoneback's suggestion. Mr. Jensen said that he has posted on the City's website that the City of Evanston, U.S. Green Building Council Illinois Chapter (USGBC-IL) and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) are teaming up to offer a free benchmarking workshop on December 6 to assist building owners and managers.

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2016 improvement projects

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

There were quite a few power outages in October, but most of them were scheduled for maintenance. There was an outage on 10/20/16 that ComEd did not notify him of because it was not at the circuit level, but he will make sure that it is listed on the annual report he receives from ComEd.

There were very few basement backups in October, and they were all determined to be private lateral issues.

There were a few water main breaks in October which were due to the Fire Department flushing fire hydrants.

The usual number of Sewer Service Repair permits were obtained in October.

Most of the major Capital Improvement projects have been completed for this year. IEPA funding has been received for the Plant Reliability Improvements project, and now that the Public Works Agency is fully staffed again, work on this project will begin early next year.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback reported that an agreement with Morton Grove and Niles is being worked out with the attorneys, and he expects to have a contract signed by the end of the year. He stated that Lincolnwood is now looking interested in purchasing water from Evanston again.

C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative

No action was taken.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Further consideration of community aggregation future

Mr. Nieuwsma said that there is nothing new to report, and stated that the current contract runs through the July-August billing cycle next year. Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that staff will go out to get prices for aggregation after the new Council has been elected next April, but he noted that staff will go out for indicative pricing before April.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2017 budget status

Mr. Stoneback reported that the 2017 budget does not seem to be impacted. He said that staff will be making a recommendation to Council to allocate \$250,000 for water collection and analysis for another round of testing in the James Park area, and based on those results, possible further testing. He informed the Commission that the ordinances to decrease the sewer rate and increase the water rate will be introduced at the November 28th A&PW meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nieuwsma moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Everhart.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant
Public Works Agency