



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, September 9, 2016, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

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

1. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Vice-Chair Nieuwsma called the meeting to order at 7:14 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 12, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Everhart moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shure.

The minutes were approved unanimously, 5-0.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

There will be two public tours of the Water Treatment Facility on October 8. The first tour at 9:00 a.m. is for adults and the second tour immediately following is a child friendly tour. Spaces are still available on both tours.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency benchmarking initiative – report on Administration & Public Works Committee meeting on August 15 and further consideration of the draft ordinance at the September 12 meeting of the committee

Mr. Jensen reported that staff has made 2 presentations to the A&PW Committee. The second of which was on August 15 where he responded to concerns that were raised by the Committee. Questions were raised about the amount of time it would take for someone to go through the benchmarking process for their facility and what type of information would be required. Staff also recommended including in the new revised draft ordinance a reduced penalty, and did not receive any feedback from the Committee. Rotary International sent a letter to City Council and the Mayor in support of the ordinance. Mr. Jensen is expecting quite a few people to be in attendance at the September 12th meeting, including John D'Angelo, Vice President of Facilities Management, at Northwestern University, who plans on speaking, and a representative from EPA Region 5 Energy Star Manager who will answer questions related to Portfolio Manager.

B. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Consideration of a brief written report on lighting circuit testing and opportunities for data collection

No action was taken.

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 a few power outages in August. He does not know the causes for the outages at this time but will find out from Carl Cavallaro and report back to the Commission.

There were three water main breaks in August, which is not unusual for this time of year.

There were several basement backups in August due to the heavy amount of rain.

There were the normal amount of permits obtained for sewer service repairs in August and no permits were obtained for water service repairs.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Negotiations remain ongoing. Mr. Stoneback will be meeting with Morton Grove and Niles this afternoon.

C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative

Mr. Jensen reported that the MWRD is changing rain barrel vendors which will affect orders from July. He noted that orders have tapered off in Evanston as most residents who wanted rain barrels have already applied for them.

D. Chloride water quality initiative status

No action was taken.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Further consideration of community aggregation future

Mr. Nieuwsma said that he does not have a lot of news to report since the Commission met last month when Citizens' Greener Evanston received a report from some Loyola University Graduate students investigating the idea of Municipal Owned ARES. He met with John D'Angelo of Northwestern University to discuss the possibility of Northwestern partnering with the City as an off taker for Municipal ARES. Mr. D'Angelo reviewed the report and offered some good feedback, and expressed a willingness to take a closer look at it if it became little more real and official but he would only be interested if it was a good deal for Northwestern. Mr. Stoneback reported that the City will seek proposals for 100% green energy and then turn it over to the Council to make the final decision.

B. Water Quality issues at James Park

Mr. Stoneback informed the Commission that the City has sampled drinking water in 3 rounds at 15 locations in the James Park area. A public meeting was held at Dawes Elementary School and residents are very concerned, but chemicals have not been found above levels that must be reported to the USEPA

and IEPA, they are 99.9% below regulatory requirements. The City has filed a lawsuit against Nicor and ComEd, and the Council will decide next steps.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft letter in support of a street lighting technology study in the 2017 budget

Vice-Chair Nieuwsma directed the Commission's attention to the revised draft letter. He noted that item 5 has been removed and a paragraph has been added regarding community engagement. Mr. Jensen informed the Commission that the Environment Board is planning on submitting their own letter in support of a street lighting technology study to the City Council. Vice-Chair Nieuwsma moved approval of the draft letter, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg.

The draft letter was approved unanimously, 5-0.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant
Public Works Agency