



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, D. Lanyon J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg,
R. Shure
Members Absent: M. White
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 7:16 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 13, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

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

The minutes of the May 13, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously, 6-0.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Stoneback reported that there will be a Community Meeting at the Levy Center on June 16th regarding the environmental issues in the James Park neighborhood. He said the City has filed a lawsuit against Nicor and ComEd due to contaminants found on and inside the water mains, and even though contaminants were found to be below standards, he does not think it is appropriate for any contamination to be brought into the water mains as they could build up over time. There will also be an event at the Rotary Club on June 16th regarding the incident in Flint, Michigan. Community leaders from Flint will provide a presentation on what happened in Flint, and Mr. Stoneback will sit on a panel to answer questions about what the City is doing to be proactive to ensure water safety in Evanston.

Mr. Stoneback announced that Evanston Township High School and District 65 schools were tested for lead in the drinking water and all tests have come back clean, lead is not an issue in any of the schools. He said that newsletters are now distributed to residents when a water main is replaced explaining the risks of lead, and giving the recommendations of the AWWA on how to flush their water pipelines after their water service is replaced, and how filters that can be purchased and put on their kitchen sinks to help remove lead.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Work Plan Item 1.1 Building energy efficiency initiative – report on city staff strategy for next steps for public outreach before the draft ordinance is presented to the City Council for consideration

Mr. Jensen reported that he will update City Council on the process the Utilities Commission has taken to develop the benchmarking ordinance and an implementation plan on June 20th at the full City Council meeting. As a part of the presentation, he will also lay out the schedule and the timeline for a period of public comment, which consists of putting the ordinance on the City's website, and having three drop-in sessions from June 21st through July 15th where anyone can drop-in, learn what benchmarking is and comment on the ordinance. Chair Lanyon, a representative from Citizens' Greener Evanston and a member of the Environment Board will be present at the City Council meeting on June 20th in support of the ordinance.

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 several power outages in May. Most of them were scheduled, but three of them were not. He believes one of the unscheduled outages was due to equipment failure and the other two were during rain events.

All basement backups that occurred in May were determined to be private lateral issues.

There was only one water main break in May, which is very low for this time of year.

There were no Water Service Repair Permits obtained, and the normal amount of Sewer Service Repair Permits were obtained in May.

The bids he received for the Plant Reliability Improvements project came in lower than the estimate and budget. He will be making recommendation to the City Council to award in the near future pending appropriate IEPA loan funding. The Masonry Repairs and Roof Improvements project is complete. The RFP for the CMMS Software Upgrade project has been released and proposals are due in late June. The Water Main Replacement project is going well. The final change order increasing the contract amount for the Sheridan Road Water Main project has been approved. He said that there has been some employee turnover at the Water Treatment Plant, and as a result, the Small Diameter Water Main Lining and the CIPP Sewer Rehabilitation projects are on hold until new employees are hired. For the Stormwater Management Improvements project, he is making a recommendation to proceed with the Special Assessment paving of several alleys, and will use \$60,000 of this fund to put in a green alley located just east of Ridge Avenue and north of Main Street.

B. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback stated that talks continue with Morton Grove and Niles. The City has hired an outside firm to validate asset costs and reproduction costs for those assets to be included in the rate structure. Work should be finished the middle of this month, and then he will be able to give Morton Grove and Niles the true cost.

C. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative

Mr. Jensen reported that the Residential Rain Barrel Program is going strong. The City has had well over a thousand orders. There has been some delay in residents receiving their barrels within the twelve week time frame due to the manufacturer running out of some of the colors. There is a program called Livable Landscapes that has had two well attended workshops related to localized stormwater management that incorporates native and water absorbing plants as well as instructions on how to most effectively utilize the rain barrels.

D. Chloride water quality initiative status

No action was taken.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Status of Exelon's Next Generation Energy Plan (NGEP) Legislation

Mr. Nieuwsma informed the Commission that Exelon's Next Generation Energy Plan (NGEP) legislation died in the Illinois House of Representatives.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. A request for consideration of a change of meeting location

Chair Lanyon informed the Commission that a guest at the last meeting brought up an issue with the meeting location due to parking. The Commission members agreed that since there are two visitor's parking spots available near the main entrance, and residents are also allowed to park in the parking lot if they call ahead to let staff know that they will be attending, the meeting location will remain at the Water Treatment Plant.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Special Projects Assistant
Public Works Agency