



APPROVED

UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

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

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 11, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the April 11, 2014 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 efficiency white paper, update on status of city database and draft white paper. The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance will be presented to provide assistance**
Chair Lanyon welcomed Mr. Kismohr of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), to the meeting to provide comments on the draft white paper. Mr. Kismohr said that the number one thing he would recommend is adding more of a connection to the City's Sustainability Plan, explaining why the City should have the ordinance, and to put this in the introduction paragraph and through the body of the white paper. Mr. Nieuwsma said that it would also make sense to tie it in with the Climate Action Plan and the extra points Evanston would receive from STAR Communities. Mr. Kismohr said that most cities have benchmarked City buildings first for at least the first year to show that the City is leading my example. Mr. Kismohr said that ComEd can provide a report of monthly energy use in electronic form for City buildings that is automatically imported into EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Ms. Hurley said that she has some data for city buildings already in Portfolio Manager, but she will make a list of all of the city buildings with the associated account numbers so ComEd can import the report. Mr. Kismohr said that Nicor will provide a PDF report of data once a year which can be manually entered into Portfolio Manager. Mr. Kismohr said that building owners can be encouraged to want to benchmark by showing them all of the benefits and savings upfront, and by making it part of their building maintenance and operations. He said that as the City's buildings are benchmarked they could do a case study pointing out their successes and savings from the upgrades, and that the City could find out whom else in Evanston is in Portfolio Manager and

reach out to them. He said that there are things that could be added to the ordinance that could be mandated, but there are limits, because the State Public Utility Commission says that the Utilities take credit for the things that they give customers incentives for. Mr. Kismohr said that it should be emphasized that the ordinance is for existing buildings only because new buildings are already doing it. He said that assistance could be offered to building owners with training classes provided by volunteer architects. Mr. Kismohr recommended obtaining information from several different databases for all of the data that would be needed about buildings. Mr. Stoneback said that he could supply a list of the top water users, and an insert could be included with the water bills alerting building owners of the ordinance and training classes. Mr. Smith said that the City could start with commercial buildings first and then phase in large residential buildings later. Ms. Hurley said that Mr. Smith and she would add in some wording about LEED requirements to the white paper, and add a cover memo that breaks everything down briefly. Mr. Grumman suggested reducing the paper down to one or two pages.

b. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Status of draft report on water conservation at five city facilities

No action was taken.

c. Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Item is inactive until consideration of 2015 budget

No action was taken.

d. Status of the next community aggregation contract incorporating local renewable energy and/or energy efficiency benefits

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City has approved a three-year contract with Homefield Energy as part of its electricity aggregation program, to provide residents and small businesses with price certainty and 100 percent renewable energy. He said that the City will issue a press release soon.

e. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Item pending warmer weather to conduct power consumption measurement in select lighting circuits and check the accuracy of lamp listing supplied to ComEd – Mr. Stoneback is seeking a portable power meter that can be borrowed

Mr. Stoneback reported that he had a conversation with Mr. Twigg, and that Mr. Twigg said that he would want to do the testing during the day. Mr. Stoneback said that he will rent a meter for the day since he was unable to find anyone who had one that he could borrow. Chair Lanyon said that the testing could be done one June 4th, and asked for volunteers to witness it. Mr. Freeman, Mr. Nieuwsma, and Mr. Rosenberg volunteered to witness the testing. Mr. Stoneback said that he obtained a copy of all the invoices for street lights and will provide the Commission with a copy.

STAFF REPORTS

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

Mr. Stoneback said that there were no power outages at the circuit level, but noted that there were two smaller outages, one of which was scheduled. He said that there are two residents in northwest Evanston on circuit C416 with frequently flickering lights, and that he spoke with Mr. Batara about it at the last TRG meeting.

Mr. Stoneback reported that there were five water main breaks in April, and noted that there had not been previous breaks on any of those water mains. He said that there was a blowout on Dodge Avenue, and that the water main will be replaced within the next three-years.

Mr. Stoneback said that there were several basement backups in April, and that they were all determined to be due to private lateral problems.

Mr. Stoneback said that there was only one Water Service Repair permit obtained in April, but that the number of Sewer Service Repair permits was still fairly high.

Mr. Stoneback said that the Plant Reliability Improvement project is being delayed again because some of the work would potentially increase the capacity of the water plant, which would cause a conflict with the City's contract with the Northwest Water Commission (NWC). He said that he would need to have a meeting with the NWC to see how they would accept this and how much of the project they would pay for. Mr. Stoneback said that the standpipe Painting & Repair project was delayed due to the cold weather and ice in the standpipe. He said that the standpipes have been inspected, the report has been submitted, and a proposed specification has been received, and the south standpipe will be painted this summer. Mr. Stoneback said that the AMI Replacement Program is going very well, and that 90% of the MTU's have been replaced. He said that the Master Meter project is moving along well, but the Chemical Feed Improvement project is on hold, and the Chlorine Equipment Replacement project design is being revised after visiting the Racine treatment plant. Mr. Stoneback said that the Finished Water Reservoir Study was awarded to CDM Smith, and the CIPP Sewer Lining Contract has been awarded and the preconstruction meeting was held but, all of the contractors are way behind schedule due to the winter. He said that the sewer repairs are being done with the water main projects, and the stormwater management projects are being done with the street resurfacing projects. He said that the Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation project on Central Park is moving along but, has been challenging.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback said that Niles and Morton Grove hired Gewalt Hamilton to study the difference between going with Evanston or going with Wilmette/Glenview, and it was determined that Evanston is the most economical way to go. He said that if they also get Park Ridge to participate then everyone's savings would be even greater. He said that Niles and Morton Grove were on Park Ridge's agenda last Monday night and he attended the meeting. He said that he will meet with Park Ridge again on June 9th, with Morton Grove Monday night, with Niles two weeks later, and the City Manager and he will meet with NSMJAWA on May 19th.

Mr. Stoneback said that it looks like Des Plaines will become a customer of the NWC, which he said will generate revenue for Evanston as well.

c. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Ideas on development of a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings

Ms. Hurley said that the bottle filling stations are still being installed in the fire houses, the Library, and probably one park field house. She said that she has not had time to work on the water use efficiency policy, but she hopes to be able to work on it this summer with the assistance of interns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Inactive task: Work plan item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Item complete pending pump replacement schedule**
- b. Inactive task: 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 Aukman report**
- c. Inactive task: Work plan item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Item complete pending the annual report of the Director of Public Works on the Complete and Green Network Approach for Construction Projects in the Public Right of Way**
- d. Inactive task: Work plan item 2.4 Evaluate the potential impact of pending USEPA sewer/water regulations on the sewer system and water treatment plant**

NEW BUSINESS

a. Utilities Commission summer meeting schedule

Chair Lanyon said that he will send an e-mail regarding Commission member's availability for summer meetings, and the vacant seat on the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Price
Executive Secretary
Utilities Department