



UTILITIES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg, M. White
Members Absent: M. Landis
Staff Present: C. Hurley, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Guest Present: 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 MARCH 14, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March 14, 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 consideration of assistance from the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance**
Mr. Smith said that he spoke with Damir Latinovic in the Community Development Department, and that Mr. Latinovic will send him the spreadsheet of data for commercial buildings sometime in early May, but it will not list building size since that is not included on the current building permit form. He said that the spreadsheet will have the address and tax I.D. number, and he could extract building size from the County Assessor's database but would need the pin number to do so. Ms. Hurley said that she might be able to get an intern to assist with this. After a brief discussion of the presentation made last month by Steve Kismohr of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), it was moved and seconded that obtaining assistance from the MEEA be approved. A voice vote was taken and it was unanimously approved to obtain assistance from the MEEA. Ms. Hurley said that she has reached out to other communities to find out how much staff time and resources would be needed to run this program and she is still receiving feedback.
- 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**
Mr. Stoneback said that the 2015 budget will need to be submitted in August, so the Commission should start discussing it in June or July.
- d. **Program to incorporate local renewable energy and/or energy efficiency benefits in the next community aggregation contract**
Chair Lanyon reported that there is a meeting scheduled for April 15th on indicative pricing. Mr. Stoneback said that he received four proposals on March 19th from Verde, Constellation, MC Squared, and Homefield. He said that the proposals are currently being reviewed by the Legal Department.
- 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 said that he spoke with Mr. Batara of ComEd, and that he is double checking but he does not believe that ComEd has a portable power meter that the city can borrow. He said that he will reach out to Northwestern University to see if they have one that can be borrowed. Chair Lanyon said that he would like a product specification for the kind of meter that is needed so he can look into renting one.

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 reported power outages at the circuit level, but noted that there was one scheduled power outage for tree removal.

Mr. Stoneback said that there were thirteen water main breaks in March. He said that there were five breaks on March 11th that occurred all at the same time on Hartrey, but they were unable to determine the cause.

Mr. Stoneback reported that there were no Water Service Repair permits obtained in March.

Mr. Stoneback said that there were fewer basement backups than last year, and that there were fewer Sewer Service Repair permits as well.

Mr. Stoneback said that they received the IEPA loan for the 48" Intake Improvement, so it will be moving forward. He said that the South Standpipe is scheduled to be painted this year, and the consultant needs to do an internal inspection but there is a huge iceberg in it and they will not inspect it until it has melted. He said that the AMI program is moving along well, and that they are revising the plan for the Chlorine Equipment Replacement project after seeing how the Racine water facility had their equipment installed, which was better than what he had planned. Mr. Stoneback said that he has the final Walker report for the Finished Water Reservoir Study. He said that he provided a copy of the report to the Aldermen and went back to Council on April 8th. Mr. Stoneback said that they are advertising for the Sewer Hydraulic Model right now, which is

funded through the operating budget not the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Stoneback reported that the Plant Reliability Improvements program has been delayed.

b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers

Mr. Stoneback said that Glenview has signed an agreement with Wilmette and they are trying to get Niles, Morton Grove, and Park Ridge to buy water from Wilmette. These communities are now completing a cost comparison between what Wilmette and Glenview are proposing and what Evanston is proposing, and Evanston is being asked to provide more data. He said that Des Plaines is interested in joining the Northwest Water Commission (NWC), and that NSMJAWA and the NWC have an RFQ out right now to hire a firm to do a study on the potential of building another pumping station.

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

Ms. Hurley said that the City won the first Utility Annual Water Saver Award from the Illinois Section American Water Works Association's (ISAWWA) Water Efficiency Committee, which was presented at the Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) and ISAWWA's joint conference and expo, WATERCON 2014 last month. She said that Terry McGhee, Chair of the ISAWWA is also in charge of the DuPage Water Commission, and he brought the award to the City Council meeting and gave a nice presentation last Monday evening.

Ms. Hurley said that she is starting to have meetings about replacing the remaining water fountains in City facilities with water bottle filling stations, and she had put in a grant but was not selected for the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC) High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program, but she said that a Sustainability Fellow will be hired by July to do analysis for a rain barrel program, and to look for funding or grants for both programs. Ms. Hurley said that she has not had a chance to work on the city water use efficiency policy yet, and that the policy might be something that the Sustainability Fellow can work on this summer.

d. Consideration of support for an Invitation to Climate Action Plan from the Sustain Evanston 20% by 2016 Campaign Working Group

Ms. Hurley said that they have been working with many community volunteers to propose a new Climate Action Plan and goal, which is now in its final stage of getting approval and endorsements from different groups and committees. It was moved and seconded that the Invitation to Climate Action Plan be approved. A voice vote was taken and the Climate Action Plan was unanimously approved with a minor change. Ms. Hurley said that the Climate Action Plan will go to the City Council for approval on the third Monday in May.

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. Nicor gas main replacements**
Mr. Stoneback said that Nicor will begin installing high pressure gas mains beginning on May 1st, and that a map and schedule of gas main replacements will be put on the City's website. Mr. Stoneback said that ComEd is planning a significant amount of work in Evanston this year as well. He said that he has asked them for a map which will put on the City's website when he receives it.
- b. UC Representative for the Evanston Earth Month Event on April 27th**
Chair Lanyon said that he had a request from Cathi White of the Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle for a representative from the Utilities Commission to attend the Renewability/Livability breakout session of Evanston's Earth Month Event on April 27th to answer citizen's questions. Mr. Grumman said that he was planning on attending the event as an observer, but he would be willing to represent the Commission at the event.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Price
Executive Secretary
Utilities Department