



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

Friday, December 11, 2020, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, T. Partel, E. Rosenberg, R. Shure, C. Skey,
G. Varela
Guests Present: J. Freeman, R. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, D. Grumman
Staff Present: A. Caloras, A. Gilbert, K. Jensen, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: R. Shure

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

2. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES: Members participating electronically or by telephone

Mr. Skey moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Everhart, all approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Mr. Skey moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Everhart, all approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

1. NEW BUSINESS

a. Meeting schedule for 2021

Mr. Everhart moved to approve the 2021 meeting schedule, seconded by Mr. Partel, all approved.

b. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021

Mr. Skey nominated Mr. Shure for Chair, seconded by Mr. Bova, all approved.
Mr. Skey nominated Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Partel as Co-Vice Chairs, seconded by Mr. Bova, all approved.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Impact of COVID-19

Mr. Stoneback said there was a situation early last month where some Distribution and Sewer employees at the Water Treatment Facility tested positive for COVID-19, which required them to isolate and their co-workers to quarantine. As a result, there were a few days when there were only three Distribution and Sewer employees actually reporting to work. All employees have since returned to work. Mr. Stoneback said staff will be recommending City Council adopt Resolution 127-R-20 at Monday night's Council meeting,

authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement for Provision of Snow Removal Personnel to Respond to Snow Emergencies during the COVID-19 Emergency with Evanston's neighboring municipalities, Lincolnwood, Glencoe, Kenilworth, Northbrook, Northfield, Skokie and Wilmette to share both personnel and snow removal equipment with each other in the event of staffing shortages during snow emergency situations due to COVID-19. He said there have been meetings with the Health Director to decide which employees should receive the COVID-19 vaccine and in what order once it becomes available.

b. ComEd Franchise Negotiations

Mr. Skey said the subcommittee has met twice since the last Utilities Commission meeting. At both of those meeting the main focus was a letter to ComEd from the City of Evanston that had been drafted through Mr. Jensen's office discussing the franchise agreement, and in particular laying out a list of issues and items that the City would like to see addressed either in the franchise agreement itself or potentially a parallel agreement. He found both meetings very productive and involved robust discussion about both the format and the tone of the letter. Mr. Jensen said the letter is up for discussion at the Administration and Public Works Committee meeting on December 14th and the letter will be made public later today. After the City Council meeting on December 14th City staff will finish making any changes or edits that are suggested to the letter and send it on to ComEd next week.

c. Community Electricity Aggregation POGO/RFP

Ajiah Gilbert, AmeriCorps Fellow, reported that the Electricity Aggregation RFP is currently open for responses which are due on December 15th. The contract will be awarded in January, 2021 but the actual transition will not occur until the summer. She said there are two program options:

1. Match ComEd's Price to Compare for all participants (which will generate revenue of \$200,000-\$300,000 annually).
2. Fixed price for all participants (what the City has had historically).

Mr. Jensen said staff will review the proposals and make a recommendation to City Council but will be prepared to move forward with an agreement with whichever option City Council authorizes. Mr. Jensen said he hopes to be able to discuss staff's recommendation with the Utilities Commission before bringing it to City Council.

Ms. Gilbert also provided a short summary on Community Solar Basics, which is up for discussion at the December 14th Administration and Public Works meeting. She said the program provides the option for residents and some businesses to receive solar energy subscriptions at a guaranteed savings compared to ComEd's Price to Compare. In addition, Evanston will be piloting a program to provide additional cost savings to low-income residents that participate. Community Solar is a type of solar program that allows residents or businesses to subscribe to a solar installation without having to install solar on their rooftop.

d. Net Zero Emissions Strategy Update

Mr. Jensen reported that the City will be extending the agreement with the contractor into 2021. Staff is working on a revised project management chart with the contractor, Elevate Energy. He will provide the revised schedule to the Utilities Commission in the second quarter of 2021.

e. International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2021 Update

Amanda Caloras, Sustainability Projects Intern, provided a detailed presentation. She said in order to develop a better understanding of the impact and effectiveness of the current Green Building Ordinance, staff performed a review of the available LEED scorecards for 30 Evanston buildings that have complied with the ordinance since 2011. To support CARP's goal of reducing building energy consumption by 35% by 2035 (from 2005 levels), staff researched how 30 LEED certified buildings in Evanston performed across six categories to identify the current performance and efficacy of the Green Building Ordinance, including potential areas of weakness that should be addressed with more exacting requirements put forth by a revised ordinance. Mr. Jensen said he should have a first draft of the revised ordinance by the end of the first quarter of 2021.

f. CARP Implementation Task Force

Mr. Everhart reported that the Task Force's monthly update meeting was held on December 9th. He said the meeting was very well attended. The primary guest at the meeting was Katy McFadden, Regional Deputy Director of the Sierra Club. Ms. McFadden promoted getting involved with the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA), which is tied toward achieving a carbon-free power-sector by 2030 and 100% renewable energy in Illinois by 2050. CEJA goals are to have 40 million solar panels and 2,500 wind turbines across Illinois by 2030, but it is not just limited to new materials and renewable production, it also ties into job creation, training, diversity, new businesses and other programs. He said CEJA holds very well as a policy right now with 80-85% of Illinoisans polled in favor of what CEJA might provide but, it needs to be moved up on the priority list to get state action by writing letters to Governor Pritzker and Representative Madigan.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

a. Monthly utility reliability report (electric system outages, basement backups, water main breaks, service repairs)

There were quite a few power outages in November but they were all scheduled for ComEd to perform upgrades to their system.

b. Water & sewer fund capital improvement project status

Most CIP projects are wrapping up now. The Stormwater Master Plan continues. The expansion of the laboratory at the Water Treatment Plant is underway and moving along well.

c. Skokie rate litigation status

No action was taken.

d. Review of 2021 CIP for water and sewer funds

No action was taken.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

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

There were no announcements or communications.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency