



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

Friday, March 12, 2021, 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, D. Grumman, R. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma
Staff Present: 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. Everhart moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Skey, all approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2021

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Impact of COVID-19

Mr. Stoneback reported that almost all of the Public Works Agency employees have now received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

b. Non-Revenue Water Report

Mr. Stoneback provided the Commission with Evanston Water Utility's 2020 Annual Non-Revenue Water Report along with a detailed memo from Darrell King, Water Production Bureau Chief. He said that the report resulted in a Non-Revenue Water (NRW) of 8.7% which is below the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Revised Rules and Regulations Allocation of Water from Lake Michigan threshold of 10%. Therefore the City is in

compliance. Mr. Lanyon added that a LMO-2 Report Summary Table is available on the IDNR's website which lists the NRW for every Illinois community for comparison.

c. ComEd Franchise Negotiations

Mr. Skey said he does not have any new information to share since ComEd has still not responded. Mr. Partel concurred and said he thinks it is time for the City to pressure ComEd to respond.

d. CARP Implementation Task Force

Mr. Everhart said due to a scheduling error he missed the last Task Force meeting, but he touched based with Mr. Freeman and said not a lot was resolved since Mr. Jensen was the key note speaker and he missed the meeting as well. Mr. Everhart presented a memo for consideration to the Utilities Commission from Citizens for a Greener Evanston, Watershed Collaborative Committee regarding a stormwater water alert system to reduce discretionary contributions into the sewer system when intense rain is in the forecast for Evanston. The memo states the rain alerts could be issued by the Public Works Agency, Water Production Bureau, Water Plant Operators. Mr. Stoneback said that he would have look into it and talk to the City's Communication Manager to determine if this is something the Water Plant Operators could do, when the alerts would be called and how they would be sent out to the community. Mr. Stoneback will report his findings at the next Commission meeting.

e. Community Electricity Aggregation POGO/RFP

No action was taken.

f. Evanston's Community Solar Program

No action was taken.

g. Net Zero Emissions Strategy Update

No action was taken.

h. International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2021 Update

No action was taken.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

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

There was nothing outstanding in the February Reports. There were two power outages but nothing of note. There was the normal number of basement backups. There were eleven water main breaks due to the cold weather in February.

b. Water & sewer fund capital improvement project status

All projects are moving along well.

Annual Water Main Replacement

City Council adopted an ordinance for the Lead Service Replacement Loan Program. The ordinance modifies the city code in reference to the lead service line replacement program completed in conjunction with the annual water main replacement program. Specially, the ordinance modifies the following aspects of the current program:

- The \$50 service fee applied to each loan has been deleted
- The loan amount was modified from being a maximum of \$4,800 to the actual amount of the plumbing costs associated with the replacement of the individual lead water service pipe
- The City may offer a grant, rather than a loan, to property owners in a census block group which is in a primarily residential neighborhood where 51% or more of residents have incomes that do not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income

The loan repayment will continue to be charged as a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) per month (two hundred dollars (\$200.00) every two (2) months) charge that will appear on the property owner's bi-monthly City water utility bill. As such, the repayment may take longer than four years as contemplated in the current city code.

Private Sewer Service Repair Costs

Mr. Stoneback said a resident on Elgin Road (Golf Road) has a private sewer service issue, and her plumber told her that it will cost \$40,000 to \$45,000 to repair. This caused her alderman to ask staff to provide a memo on the cost of sewer service repairs, which they did. Staff also provided some funding options if they wanted to look at that as well. As far as he understands the only recommendation the City Council made was that Evanston needs to try to make homeowners aware as they are purchasing their homes where their sewer service goes and the condition of that sewer service. He is not sure how to get that information to potential new homeowners except possibly by working through realtors.

c. Skokie rate litigation status

Mr. Stoneback reported that the City has made some good headway on negotiations with Skokie. Evanston and Skokie have come to a verbal agreement with basically everything that Evanston wanted in the first place. Evanston is sending Skokie the draft copy of the water supply agreement for their review. They have agreed on the amount of payment for arrearage, the

rate for 2021, on how their rate will continue to be calculated in the future, and on a twenty year term. He thinks will be wrapped up within the next 30 days.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mr. Stoneback reported that ComEd issued a press release that ComEd customers will receive personalized information reports with their March 2021 bills about how grid investments have benefited them.

Mr. Stoneback announced that there will be a Technical Review Group (TRG) meeting with ComEd immediately following the April 9th Utilities Commission meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Price
Administrative Lead
Public Works Agency