



MEETING MINUTES

UTILITIES COMMISSION

Friday, January 14, 2022, 7:15 A.M.
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.
Large Conference Room

Members Present: C. Bova, D. Everhart, T. Partel, R. Shure, C. Skey
Guests Present: J. Freeman, D. Lanyon, S. McComb
Staff Present: C. Pratt, A. Price, D. Stoneback
Presiding Member: T. Partel

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Partel 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.

Mr. Stoneback introduced Stephen McComb, a prospective new Commission member to the Commission. Chair Partel welcomed him to the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF December 10, 2021

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments provided.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Municipal Gas Bans

Mr. Everhart reported that New York City has banned the connection of new buildings with natural gas supply, which is significant since it is New York City and away from the west coast where California, Washington and Oregon have already taken similar measures. Specifically what they are doing is in December 2023 buildings that are under seven stories will be affected by this mandate and in 2027 buildings greater than seven stories will be affected, which is pretty substantial news. One of the big pushbacks on this issue is that people want natural gas for their stoves and cooking in these buildings which is impossible without the natural gas connection. He attended an Urban Green Commission webinar and they estimate that in New York City right now they have the electrical capacity to provide for 40% of the entire load in New York City if they were to completely electrify. Therefore, there will have to be some grid development to accommodate this. He is not sure if Evanston has

conducted a similar sort of review, but he thinks this would be a beneficial thing to do.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. ComEd Franchise negotiations

Chair Partel said he does not have anything new to report on the ComEd Franchise negotiations however, there is a meeting scheduled for next Friday.

b. Discussion of final draft of Evanston Municipal Operations Zero Emissions Strategy

Ms. Pratt said the goal of today's discussion is to have something from the Commission recommending one of the three scenarios listed in the Strategy which would go to the City Council. Ms. Pratt provided the Elevate Energy presentation from several months ago which was shared with the Commission at that time. She explained each of the three scenarios listed in the Strategy.

- Scenario 1: Transformative
- Scenario 2: Fundamental
- Scenario 3: Initial

Ms. Pratt noted that the first scenario is the most ambitious and the third scenario is the most cautious. She said all three of the scenarios meet CARP goals but do it in a different way.

After a healthy discussion the Commission was unable to reach a consensus on how to proceed and would like to table the discussion and come back next month with a firm recommendation. Mr. Bova moved to postpone making a recommendation until next month's meeting, seconded by Mr. Skey, all approved. Mr. Stoneback said he will make the Strategy available on the City's website.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Stoneback reported the following:

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

The monthly reports were provided in the meeting packet. No discussion was provided.

b. Water & Sewer Fund Capital Improvement Project status 54" Intake Heater Cable Replacement Project

The cable has been installed and the heating system is operational. Final inspection of the mile-long intake pipeline was not completed due to poor lake conditions and visibility in the pipeline. A change order will be on the January 10th City Council agenda to extend the contract date and allow the final inspection to occur early next summer.

The City Council adopted a resolution in which the City will forgive the remaining balance of loans issued by the City for lead service line replacements. The City Council also accepted introduction of an ordinance which would modify several sections of the water code and those pertaining to the sections where we provide loan and/or grants for the replacement of lead service lines with water main projects because the City will be paying for the lead service line replacement all the way to the meters moving forward. The code was also modified to state that you cannot repair lead service lines that you have to replace them in conjunction with the Illinois Lead Reduction and Notification Act.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

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

Chair Partel informed the Commission that there was an article in Evanston Now about the expensive private sewer repair issue that came before the Commission a few months ago, and he encouraged everyone to take a look at it. He also informed the Commission that Nicor Gas sent out an email to resident's emails listed on their accounts saying "Why is my gas bill so high this winter?" which is something residents will be talking about.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.