



**MEETING MINUTES**

**UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Friday, May 17, 2024, 7:15 A.M.  
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.  
Large Conference Room

Members Present: S. Blazey, J. Hargrove, S. McComb, M. Roling, M. Sutton,  
S. Waters  
Members Absent: K. Lackey  
Guests Present: J. Freeman, D. Lanyon  
Staff Present: D. King, B. Martin, A. Price  
Presiding Member: S. McComb

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**1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum being present, S. McComb called the meeting to order at 7:17 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF March 8, 2024**

S. Waters moved to approve the minutes, seconded by S. McComb, all approved.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**4. NEWS OF INTEREST & CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS RELEVANT TO THE UC**

**a. Evanston Roundtable Article**

S. McComb announced that the Evanston Roundtable recently ran an article on the city's sewer system separate from D. Lanyon's article that he thought was pretty good.

**b. Lead Service Line Replacement Plan**

D. King provided a copy of the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan. He said that the plan will be updated annually until 2027 and sent to the IEPA as mandated.

D. King said informational notices regarding galvanized and lead water service lines were sent out to property owners whose properties are believed as being served by galvanized and lead water service lines based on city records and inventory submitted to the IEPA as mandated.

## 5. STAFF REPORTS

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

D. King reported that there have been eight water main breaks so far this year. He would like to see the number of water main breaks go down to 24 to 25 per year therefore, Water Production Bureau staff will be flushing the fire hydrants this year instead of the Fire Department.

The city has completed 25 lead service line replacements so far this year. He is hoping that number will jump up significantly in 2025.

### b. Water & Sewer Fund Capital Improvement Project status LSLR Pilot Project

Design is complete. The city received the fully executed DCEO Grant Agreement on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Bidding documents are being finalized to advertise this summer.

#### LSLR Prioritized Replacements

Design and construction for the replacement of lead service lines in census tracts most likely to receive IEPA SRF funding over a 5-year period. Staff is currently working toward securing up to \$23 million of funding for up to 2000 LSLR's in low-income Census Tracts. The 2024 budget was established in anticipation of construction beginning this year. However, the latest IEPA Draft Loan Rules indicate that funding will not be available for construction until 2025. Work in 2024 will involve securing funding, outreach, and design. Staff is drafting an RFP for engineering support for LSLR for the next 3 to 5 years. Staff is completing the next formal submittal for the loan application.

#### 1909 Intake Replacement

Change Order 1 for costs addressing various changed conditions identified during excavation was approved by City Council on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The floor of the valve vault at the bottom of the excavation was poured the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, marking the first significant concrete pour of the project. Shorewell 3 is expected to be back online the first week of May, achieving another significant milestone. All marine equipment is also expected to be mobilized on site the first week of May to begin marine pipe installation. Completion is hoped for by the end of the year.

#### Medium Voltage Reliability and Generator

Staff is working with the consultant to finalize the bid documents. Staff continues to work to obtain IEPA SRF funding, working on the Bid Package submittal. Funding is anticipated to be awarded in July, for bidding to proceed shortly thereafter.

**East Filter Plant Reliability**

Design of improvements to the east filter and now also the west plant. This is another big project and is pending the sale of GO Bonds by the City.

**c. Sustainability Team Update/Report**

B. Martin updated the Commission on grants submitted by city staff for the building ordinance which he said are fairly complex. Both he and Cara Pratt will be out of the office for the next few weeks, but they will start the electricity acquisition process when they return. He hopes to have an RFP out in late summer for municipal and community wide aggregation, putting the two together to give the city more purchasing power. Also, allowing a consultant to step in and manipulate the agreement a little bit on the city's behalf. The end goal being better time matching. He said a PhD student is working on an emissions presentation that will be presented to the Environment Board on June 13<sup>th</sup>. He will share the presentation with the Utilities Commission.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Vote on posting D. Lanyon's Stormwater Master Plan article on the UC page on the city's website**

S. Waters moved to approve posting D. Lanyon's article on the Utilities Commission page on the city's website, seconded by M. Sutton, all approved. D. King said that he would need to run it past the city's Communications and Engagement Manager for approval first. D. King will also provide a copy of the article to B. Martin for posting on the Environment Board's page of the website as well.

**b. Review of 2023 UC accomplishments**

D. Lanyon suggested adding the Stormwater Master Plan to the 2023 UC accomplishments since it was completed in June 2023. S. Blazey suggested a minor correction to second line item, and adding a line stating, "for specific information check the meeting minutes." S. Blazey moved to approve the 2023 UC accomplishments with the suggested revisions, seconded by S. Waters, all approved.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. LSL Replacements – Additional Concepts**

S. McComb introduced the concept of an incentive payment of approximately \$5,000 for the homeowner to receive from the city upon completion to initiate a lead service line replacement, but the homeowner would be responsible for doing the whole project themselves including the city side. He said the contractor could do a few houses in a row at the same time. He believes it would be more efficient than trying to coordinate with the city to get it done, less costly to the city, and accomplish more lead service line replacements. D. King said that this is a conversation he needs to have with the Distribution Supervisor, Tim Bartus. He will get staff feedback and report back to the Commission at next month's meeting. D. King said the city has done the

second item listed on Additional Concepts once before. The city distributed thirty or so loans to homeowners that were billed on their water bills. However, when the city decided to fund all lead service line replacements all of the loans were forgiven, and payments were refunded to homeowners. He said that it caused more accounting for the city, and one of the issues they had was work being completed and the homeowner never paying the contractor. The Law Department advised the city to stay out of it because it was between the homeowner and the contractor.

**b. Ongoing Project Updates (PFAS, watermain geothermal)**

S. Waters reported that a friend put him in touch with Dennis Fotino who started Enwave which was the deep-water intake project in Toronto where they heat the district heating system in downtown Toronto. He said that Dennis Fotino has moved on from Enwave and formed a new company called Noventa, and also happens to be a Northwestern University Kellogg graduate who loves the city of Evanston. He had a meeting with S. McComb, J. Freeman and D. Fotino to discuss opportunities in Evanston. D. Fotino informed them that the south end of Lake Michigan is very shallow therefore, there is not a deep-water opportunity here, but he was more than willing to look into what opportunities they could get. Noventa also does wastewater systems and Mr. Fotino had a lot of questions about the collection system in Evanston, the pumping station, MWRD's pumping station and flows. D. Fotino was provided with the 2022 Water & Sewer Annual Report which has flows and shows the distribution system and D. Lanyon was able to provide some information on MWRD's pumping station. D. King said Bridget Nash, Civil Engineer II, would have more information since flow testing was done as part of the Stormwater Management Master Plan which can be provided as well. He also informed the Commission that the 2023 Water & Sewer Annual Report is now available on the city's website.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.