

Utility Commission Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2021
6:00 PM at Utility Office Building

Members Present: Robert Affeld, Ross Canniff, Bart Coons, Cheryl Braun, Dick Evans, Nick Gahlman, Tim Gassner, and Mayor Wegener

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Alice Gentz, Laurie Runyan, and Peggy Schultz

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM and roll call was taken. Motion by Caniff/ Braun to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Braun/Evans to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Appearances/Comments:

- A. Mike Laue of MSA. Mike informed us that he will be retiring and his son Jason will be taking over our account. He discussed the S Hyland St project - the City received a grant through CDBG program for about \$560,000 to be used towards this project, to be completed in 2021. Mike provided a map of the project site; recommends full replacement of sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water mains, widening street to standard 36', installing new curbs/gutters, and 5' sidewalks on each side.

Monthly Business:

- A. Motion by Caniff/Evans to approve payment of WPPI invoice of \$235,179.75, checks of \$130,793.29 and vouchers of \$74.32. Motion carried 5-0.
- B. Review Prior Month Income Statement.
- C. Council Acts Affecting Utility. Resolution 72-2020 – Approved converting a 480 transformer to a 240 transformer and some of the City streetlights.
- D. Consumption and Loss.
- E. Review Totals of Delinquent Customers. Moratorium still in place.

Reports of Officials:

- A. Utility Accountant.
 1. Discuss Utility Cash. Still a deficit in Sewer- need to do rate study in order to raise rates. Sewer is paying back Electric monthly, waiting until next borrowing to make payments to Water.
 2. Update on Scholarships. We've received 3 applications so far. Recipient will be chosen in May.
Audit this week – will be done virtually
- B. Electric Superintendent.
 1. Projects Update. Planning out S Hyland project costs and materials; concerned with lead times for materials and timing of project. Contacted AT&T and Charter re: moving electrical/cable underground. Can do project without underground and replace poles as needed. Mayor suggested moving 3-phase wiring underground, keeping single-phase above ground as an economical solution.
 2. Bucket truck in for repair; had a street light fault on Jewel St, cleared snow to access; did some street light maintenance; had west service door at shop replaced. Got new handheld device for water meter installations. Fixed hotspots found during thermal reading.

C. Water/Wastewater Superintendent.

1. Projects Update. Freezing pipes have been a daily battle. Had an electrical problem at lift 2, made temporary repair. Received a call from a resident with low water pressure- lateral was freezing, had them run water to get it flowing, all ok. Ordered new SCADA computers- budgeted item. Working on putting street plans on computer in order to provide customers with information more easily. Painting inside Well #2 building. Well 2 will go back online soon. Replaced drain lines in north plant. Cross connection report submitted to DNR. Marker flags installed at hydrants. Problems with analyzer for phosphate testing, unable to fix after multiple tries, getting a new analyzer on free trial for 6 months. Had a meeting last week to discuss WWTP upgrades. Tom Unke is getting Sensient contract together.
2. Discussion about discontinuing adding fluoride to the water. Evans to research public health benefits. Peggy brought up concerns about current containments of chlorine and fluoride being next to each other, should at least be double-walled tanks.

Utility President: Checked with surrounding communities if fluoride is being added to their water, many do not. No requirements to have it. There will be a Project & Planning meeting on Monday 3/8 for WWTP upgrades.

Mayoral Comments: Thanked Tim for meeting at WWTP last week- very informative. Completing Sensient contract is important. Has City clerk looking into grant funding for replacing private lead laterals.

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Motion by Braun/Coons to adjourn meeting at 7:15 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes recorded by:
Laurie Runyan