

Utility Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 8, 2021
6:00 PM at Utility Office Building

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

Members Absent: Peter Gallun

Also Present: none

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM and roll call was taken. Motion by Canniff/Coons 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: None

Monthly Business:

- A. Motion by Braun/Canniff to approve payment of WPPI invoice of \$321,612.23, and checks of \$110,306.85. Motion carried 5-0.
- B. Review Prior Month Income Statement.
- C. Council Acts Affecting Utility.
 - a. Resolution 37-2021: Award Construction Bid for North Street Resurfacing Project
 - b. Resolution 38-2021: Approve Amending the Agreement with MSA for the Hyland Street & E. Oak Street Project – Extending the Reconstruction to Fair Street.
 - c. Resolution 40-2021: Approve Hiring Peter Gallun-Water/Wastewater Superintendent
- D. Consumption and Loss.
- E. Review Totals of Delinquent Customers.

Reports of Officials:

- A. Utility Accountant.
 - 1. Review emails from Tom Unke with update on Sensient contract. Interim rates to start with September billing for August usage. Contract still under review.
 - 2. Baker Tilly's Sewer User Charge Study is complete. Reviewed rate changes. Industrial and Public Authority water usage is going down, possibly due to COVID.
- B. Electric Superintendent.
 - 1. Projects Update: Mailed letters to customers on Highland and some E. Oak regarding the overhead to underground conversion; have been working with Charter and AT&T, Charter has approval from their corporate office to proceed; MSA completed surveying street for sidewalk offsets and grade heights for placing of equipment; we have 2 of the 3 easements needed from residents for the transformer replacements, negotiating with the third resident, they're requesting we replace 2 small sidewalk slabs and they will give us easement; project starting in 2 weeks. Had a couple small outages, both faults were under sidewalks; had a big outage due to a transformer that "blew up" that feeds 7 homes, replaced transformer and restored power; outcome of transformer failing caused damage to electronics that are sensitive to high voltages i.e. furnace circuit boards, microwaves, refrigerators, etc. The Utility is not liable for those damages, residents need to file claims with their homeowner's insurance. Working on Automated Pet Care expansion/upgrade, still waiting on transformer. New Digger Derrick was delivered, putting old Digger Derrick for sale on surplus website. One of the MEUW conference topics covered was the outlook of electric

cars and how it affects utilities, uncertainty on how charging cars will affect load on substation capacities, and the concerns with possible backload on utility system. Also learned about 5G service cells and its implementation. MEUW developed a generic pole attachment agreement with recommended rates for the City Attorney to review, and a city ordinance needs to be put in place. Gas utilities are beginning to install AMI meters which need to be attached to our poles. Had 3 disconnects this month, all are reconnected. Mayor Wegener commended Nick on how professionally he handled the transformer issue and the hours he spent to help the customers.

C. Water/Wastewater Superintendent. (Peter was unable to attend meeting, Nick read his report):

Our flow meter that measures Sensient's flows has been recording different reads than Sensient's meters for quite some time, Sensient asked to see our system to determine what was going on. LW Allen came out on our behalf, Durable Controls came out on Sensient's behalf to review systems. Per the technician, our flow meter and controls were over 20 years old; at YSI, the unit was also not installed correctly. Sensient furnished all new equipment for that test site so readings were being accurately measured and readings were matching up; both contractors were there for the install and was done at no cost to the Utility. VisuSewer cleaned approximately 10,350' of sewer mains and Liftstations 1 & 4. Town & Country repaired broken sewer lateral on N. Depot St. and a sink hole on S. Western Ave. New display screens were installed at Liftstations 1 & 4. New SCADA computers were installed, and the new phosphorus analyzer has been installed. Working on determining a majority of lead service locations. We will be mailing a letter to customers to inform them of the lead lateral replacement program. Working on budget for next year. Hired a new operator, she starts on Sept 13th. Well 3 has failed 4 times since Friday, Dan brought in some parts for repairs. The county is doing a project on West St. from Center St. to the dead-end, and some of those water valve boxes needed to be adjusted.

Utility President: Hired Elizabeth Condon for WWTP. Cheryl asked if Peggy has passed all of her certification tests, and she has, so once she turns in her paperwork, she will be due for a wage increase.

Mayoral Comments:

1. Discuss and take action on Lead lateral replacement ordinance. Reviewed the ordinance that Beaver Dam uses. Grant we are applying for will cover costs of lateral replacements; need an established list of residents that have lead laterals to obtain the funding. Dan asked Mac to follow up with WWTP to make sure a list is getting done to meet deadlines of the grant. Motion by Affeld/Canniff to recommend to Common Council that the City implement a new ordinance for replacing lead laterals by adopting Beaver Dam's ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business: NONE

New Business: Bart recommended taking the social security number off of our job application. Mac suggested that the application be reviewed at the next Utility Personnel meeting to discuss changes that need to be made.

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

Minutes recorded by:
Laurie Runyan