

Utility Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2014

Approved

Call to Order @ 5:30 pm by Joe Madden, Utility Commission President

Roll Call. Lange, Eno, Krueger, Madden and Campfield. Also Bill Collins, Craig Rinderer, Mark Steward, Carole Brown

Public Comment: Roger Campfield reported that the museum needs furnace repair. Steward will call Miller Heating. Steward is also having a mold company do an inspection of City Hall.

Campfield/Krueger motion to retain Joe Madden as Utility Commission President. Eno/Krueger to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot. All ayes. Motion carried.

Krueger/Lange motion to retain Roger Campfield as Utility Commission Secretary. Eno/Lange to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot. All ayes. Motion carried.

Krueger/Eno motion to approve Carole Brown as Utility Clerk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Electric Superintendent – Rinderer report:

Had written report in the packet. Krueger would like to hold the transformer purchase off until November. Rinderer wants to purchase pad mount and overhead transformers and would like to put these into the new/proposed shed. Campfield asked about fund availability. Steward reminded the Commission of pooled cash status, but Electric has funds available.

Campfield asked about Bardo project. Steward updated the commission on City's responsibility per the developers agreement.

Rinderer reported on the recent lightning issues. The inter-connect breaker goes out and we are without power. Staff has to manually reset the breaker. Have been troubleshooting and fixing the generation department. Have to be patient and smart. Rinderer is looking at doing some reprogramming.

Campfield/Krueger motion to approve resolution to combine WWMPG and UMMPA into one organization known as UMMEG. All ayes. Motion carried.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Report – Collins report:

Collins reported his last day of work will be December 5th. Collins communication letter in packet. Collins commented on the 32 year old air compressor. He stated humidity and gas are a problem. There is a need to move components and get new equipment. The cost is about \$8000 and money is in replacement account.

Krueger/Lange motion to replace air compressor system. All ayes. Motion carried

Collins also reported that the deck on the oxidation ditch needs to be replaced.

Collins explained the Bardo sewer and water issues. The sewer got plugged at south manhole. The sewer had 13 connections and all were plugged except for what Bardo needed. It was cleaned and TV'd and needs to be deeded over to Bardo. We will need to cut in water on Cedar St. A 6" lateral and valve were installed to property line. Steward will let Tailor Made and Walker know about temporary road closing. Rinderer asked if Cedar St will be rebuilt. Steward answered with a grant from WEDC/CDBG for \$250,000. If we don't receive a grant, City General will use funds to rebuild.

Collins talked about Brunner project for water and sewer.

Collins discussed sewer rates. We charge \$7.98/1000 gallons and Sparta charges \$19/1000 gallons. Sparta may raise their rate to \$30/1000 gallons, so Elroy should raise price, then open up pretreatment unit. We should

be able to make money on it. Some issues are odors due to toxic acid not being removed and we don't have a contract with Monroe County. It has been four years since rates were reviewed.

City Administrator Report-Steward report:

Steward reported on CDBG PF project and SDWLP. Steward asked for consideration of a simplified rate case for water.

Campfield/Eno motion to pursue simplified water rate case. Four ayes, one no (Krueger). Motion carried.

The Commission would like City to consider switching to LED lights for street lighting to save money.

Steward reviewed budgets for electric, water and sewer. Approval of budgets will be done at November meeting.

Krueger/Eno motion to delay approval of budgets until November after the City Council decides on staffing, salaries, and benefits. All ayes. Motion carried.

Carole Brown explained the concept of deferred payment agreements, MEUW opinion, and the PSC decisions to allow utilities to change their tariffs to no longer offer DPA to residential tenants. It will be up to the Utility Commission to decide how to proceed.

Krueger/Lange motion to wait until next month to decide in order to see what other utilities will do. All ayes. Motion carried.

Krueger/Lange motion to approve bills as presented, plus pay application #5 to Badger Environmental. All ayes. Motion carried.

Steward updated the Commission on the status of the Department of Public Works position.

No other communication

Krueger/Campfield motion to adjourn @ 7:00 pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mark Steward
City Administrator