

Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2012

approved

Call to Order @ 5:30 pm by Peter Brandt, Utility Commission President

Roll Call. Brandt, Campfield, Eno, Krueger, new member Joe Madden

Motion by Campfield to approve minutes of June 19, 2012 meeting. All ayes. Carried

Public Comment (5 minute limit, no action to be taken, items not on agenda)

No public comments.

Discussion regarding scheduled power outage by Electric Superintendent Rinderer. Key people have already been notified but date isn't set in stone. Would like impact from others. Power loss simulation and testing will take two hours to get through. There was discussion on dates and times. Brandt suggested getting info from large power customers. Rinderer stated that he needs to set a date and not give options. He would like the utility commission to direct city staff to help with notification to customers. Brandt suggested August 5th or 12th if works for guy from Houston. Bill Collins will also come in and take his stuff offline. Time discussed was 10:30 pm – 12:30 pm. Should have notice put in paper and announced on radio. Rinderer can't do this all by himself and will need help.

Discussion regarding power line related tree issues. Rinderer contacted local contractors and they were surprised because they don't do that kind of work so they couldn't give quotes. Rinderer doesn't understand why it can't be done just because it wasn't budgeted for. He understands that money is limited due to other projects and electric utility is covering the bills until paid back. Rinderer stated concerns over safety issues. Rinderer is asking the utility commission to ask City Hall to look closely and find the money to do this project. Brandt wants to know where the money will come from in the budget. Collins stated that money will be coming back to electric department from grant received for well project. Krueger is concerned about cash flow issues. Brandt wants to look into it further and suggested spreading it out over 2-3 years. Rinderer is getting busier and trees keep growing. He stated that he enjoys tree trimming but doesn't have time. Craig claims former Electric Superintendent admitted he had neglected tree trimming because he was busy with other stuff. Campfield feels that Mark Steward should be in on the decision. Put on the next agenda for a decision. Additional discussion regarding Grant doing the tree trimming. Rinderer stated that it takes Grant away from learning how to rebuild power lines and actually do the work. Krueger would like Rinderer to take him around to look at the trees. It was suggested taking pictures to present at next meeting.

Water/Sewer Superintendent report by Collins. Nothing going on lately. Will be laying brick and block for well project next week, along with putting in electricity. A well on Ackerman Road is not abandoned. Reportedly went in 250' but couldn't find depth. Homeowner can't afford to have the well abandoned but may have a chance for a 75% grant. The well is only 200' from the new well and if it gets contaminated the new well will also be at risk. Campfield feels we need to address the issue regardless. May have to assess property taxes for payment and pay to do it ourselves. Kelsey is interested in filling out the paperwork.

Spring Street sewer project is done. Payment plan set up for one person (Raese). Not sure if other resident (Dunn) has made arrangements, will ask Carole.

Discussion regarding lower Western Avenue repairs. Have contacted three people for bids on sewer lining and replacing culvert. Also getting quotes for N Brooklyn and Pfaff Street repairs.

Approval of bills for payment. Krueger/Campfield to approve bills. Roll call. Eno – yes, Krueger – yes, Brandt – yes, Campfield – yes. All ayes. Carried.

Commission communications – Campfield asked about Mark Saemisch forgetting to run a PH test on the weekend. It has to be documented and noted on paperwork. He was probably in a hurry and it is the first time it has happened.

Campfield/Eno to adjourn at 6:50 pm. All ayes. Carried.

Lynn Thorson
Deputy Clerk