

Utility Commission Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2012

Approved

Call to Order @ 5:30 pm by Roger Campfield, Utility Commission Secretary

Roll Call. Brandt (not here), Campfield, Eno, Krueger, and Madden

Steward received a letter from Peter Brandt and distributed it to the Commission members. The letter states that Mr. Brandt will resign his position on the Utility Commission immediately. Steward also gave the letter to the Mayor, and the Mayor will look to appoint a new member in the near future.

Madden/Krueger to approved the minutes from September and from October. All ayes. Carried

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

No public comments. Public in attendance may comment on specific agenda items.

Commission moved the discussion on the interruptible contract to the beginning of the agenda since Dave Krause, engineer, is in attendance.

Rinderer prefaced that this discussion, if talking contractually, should be held in closed session.

Krause is looking at instructions from the Utility Commission as how to proceed with Brunner's interruptible contract.

Campfield stated that the Utility Commission needs to come up with a formal letter. First the Mayor or City Administrator should contact Brunner to let him know how it is proceeding.

Rinderer can continue his ongoing discussions/relationship with Brunner.

Need to get a meeting with Krause to discuss the Commission's approach, then fill in Brunner's.

Set a special Commission meeting for 4pm on November 26 to discuss with Krause the next steps.

The Commission postponed the discussion on electing a President.

The Commission postponed the discussion on electing a Secretary.

Krueger/Madden motion to reappoint Carole Brown as the Utility Clerk. All ayes. Carried.

Krueger/Eno motion to have Madden's term expire in 2016. All ayes, Madden abstained. Carried.

Well #4 Progress Report by Collins:

They are tying in all the parts of the water system with the SCADA system. The well is almost complete; however, it is up and running and working. The generator is still on backorder waiting for EPA approval.

Commission members will contact Collins to do walk throughs of the floodproofing and well #4 as the projects are now wrapping up.

Wellhead Protection Plan and Ordinance.

Collins presented on the plan and proposed ordinance. Steward reviewed the management strategy. It was believed that under Dave Magnison there was an ordinance, specifically for Well #3. The staff will look into it before the Commission makes a recommendation.

Kelsey's well is abandoned.

Wastewater Discharge Permit

Collins presented the draft permit. It has the same limits as current. Next thing to do is monitor for Nitrogen – Ammonia. The current monthly average for phosphorus is 4.2 mg/l. We currently meet this standard but need a plan to address the new limits. Current phosphorus in the river upstream is 0.2 – 0.3 mg/l and our discharge

increases that level by 0.1 mg/l. The new limit will be 0.075 mg/l. It could cost upwards of \$3 million to upgrade the plant. Next step is to have a consultant evaluate the plant.

Powerhouse floodproofing report:

Steward, Rinderer, and Collins updated the Commission on the progress of the project. Project almost complete. Flood barriers arrived on Friday and once installed there will be a training session.

Budget 2013:

Steward presented the budgets. Electric is looking good and three projects are outlined for 2013. September 2013 need to have electronic monitoring devices on exhaust towers from the generators and cooling tower. These are emission monitors as required by the DNR and EPA. Currently, staff are taking air monitoring samples.

Sewer budget is in good shape but there is a need for a wastewater treatment plant facilities study to address the new permit and rules.

Water budget needs to have Merrill Avenue added to it, as the City General is budgeting for a new street. Should cost less than \$80,000. Might need to add alley behind City Hall to the project lists for 2013, and this will cost about \$20,000 for a 6 inch main. This budget is tight due to the well project loan.

Rinderer brought up shared expenses between departments. There needs to be ongoing discussion to track the accounting of expenses amongst departments.

Krueger/Madden to approve budgets as presented. Roll Call. All ayes. Carried.

Mutual Aid discussion:

Steward presented the billing out of time and expenses for Rinderer's mutual aid response to the east coast for hurricane sandy.

Campfield commended Rinderer for going out there.

Krueger is disappointed in Rinderer going over the head of his supervisor and leaving the city empty handed and should be reprimanded for his actions.

Madden has taken a lot of heat for Rinderer being gone at his own discretion.

Krueger felt it is totally wrong for Rinderer to leave his trainee alone and the City without a lineman for 2 weeks when he is constantly saying he is busy.

Rinderer commented and said he followed what was instructed by Mark Stanek.

Krueger stated that only the Utility Commission President can call a special meeting and he cannot unilaterally authorize this type of action.

Rinderer feels he followed the previous protocol, as he feels he was doing what he was told.

Collins stated that national emergencies need mutual aid and we may need it at some point.

Ed Brown chimed in and wanted the double talk stopped and the issue addressed and the Utility Commission to take a look at the policies.

Campfield stated it was reported at a previous meeting that Rinderer must recognize his supervisor as the City Administrator and must follow his instructions. Directions to come from City Administrator.

Rinderer is open to a way to move forward. He followed what he was instructed.

Steward suggested moving forward with a policy.

Krueger/Madden motion to remove Rinderer from his job and have him turn in his keys immediately for not following the direction of the City Administrator. Roll call vote. Eno – No, Krueger – Yes, Madden – Yes, Campfield – No. Vote is 2 – 2, a tie. The motion fails for lack of a majority.

Steward presented on REU'S and delinquent utility accounts that will end up on the tax roll.

Rinderer reported that he is finishing up on the invoicing for the mutual aid event and will turn that over to Steward.

Collins said his written report is complete and has no other comments.

Krueger/Eno to approve the bills. Roll call. All ayes. Carried.

Eno/Krueger to adjourn at 8:10 pm. All ayes. Carried.

Mark Steward
City Administrator