

Utility Commission Meeting
Wednesday, July 6, 2022
6:00 PM at Utility Office Building

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

Members Absent: Peter Gallun
Also Present: Peggy Schultz

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

Change Motion by Braun/Evans to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the following change stated by Electric superintendent: Outage on eastern portion of the city was not caused by GlasFloss, a blown fuse was the cause, the back feed voltage from GlasFloss extended the outage. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Appearances/Comments: None

Monthly Business:

- A. Motion by Braun/Canniff to approve payment of WPPI invoice of \$326,610.31 and checks of \$121,777.79. Motion carried 5-0.
- B. Review Prior Month Income Statement.
- C. Council Acts Affecting Utility. Resolution 19-2022: Authorizing Execution of the DNR Principal Forgiven Financial Assistance Agreement.
- D. Consumption Loss.
- E. Review Totals of Delinquent Customers.

I. Report of Officials:

- A. Utility Accountant: New wage and benefit listing is in your binder. Pam is working out very well. Kiley is back part-time.
- B. Electric Superintendent
 - 1. Projects Update. Suggest possibly increase our reconnection fee, it is \$40 which doesn't cover our cost, surrounding utilities charge \$60-\$85, will do more research on this. Summer help started, excellent employee, hardworking, grasping knowledge quickly. ATC outage was cancelled due to rain and not wanting to damage Nehls Bros. field, will schedule around harvest of their next crop; no customers will be affected, will be in contact with Bullseye that there may be a voltage drop during outage. We finished new pole yard at Industrial Substation, will also store pipe and equipment trailers, good utilization of space, came in almost \$12k under budget. Had a significant outage at Dah Farms, a transformer had a catastrophic outage possibly caused by an insulation failure inside the CT cabinet, ruined 2 of 3 transformers, was a crisis for customer as well as for us with not having a backup transformer; we contacted entire MEUW and WPPI membership, were able to get an underground transformer from Columbus so we had to do conversion from overhead to underground, customer paid for CT cabinet and new secondary service; cost of a transformer for replacement is \$54,000; reached out to 15 other utilities, Reedsburg did a system voltage changeover so they had some old transformers, we purchased (3)

for about \$1,500 each as spares for emergencies only. Concerned of not having backup transformers for large customers such as Clearview or the jail, but they are now about \$154,000 each; checking into options to make sure customers are looked after from the utility's responsibility; we never have had a backup transformer for large customers; most other utilities have a backup transformer to cover their largest customer, very difficult to justify pricing for us as a small utility. Hyland Street lighting is ready, 3 poles are in conflict with project and will be taken down when contractor is ready so to keep streetlights up as long as possible, will have a temporary feed for lights on E Oak St. Currently troubleshooting a street light meter having a communication error. Energized pedestal that pumps out the crock by new construction by the soccer fields, \$135-150/mo for current pump usage; DPW dug ditch to help issue. Prepping E Oak St job, have everything lined up; Koch's started potholing for underground utilities. Took training on a new transformer loading tool so transformers will be linked to meters.

C. Water/Wastewater Superintendent

1. Review and approve 2021 CMAR report and send to Council for Resolution. Motion by Braun/Coons to move this to Council. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Projects Update. Peter met with MSA about starting a private sewer lateral program, concerned with number of private laterals found to be leaking, will schedule MSA to come to next meeting to explain. LR Meter tested jail meter, replaced worn parts; Nick verified readings. Bytec cleaned south waste basin, had north basin done last month; plant is working well since both basins cleaned. Had 2022 sanitary survey done, corrective action plan sent to DNR, need to do fire flow testing for hydrants, 40 hydrants per year until completed; other deficiencies in the plan have been taken care of or are in process, need to have a log for generator testing at well #2, many small things done right away. Generator for Well #3 is on order, waiting for info to finish the scope of project in order to put ad for bid in newspaper. Mayor inquired about grant funding available for the private sewer lateral replacement, will discuss with MSA.

VI. President: WPPI annual meeting will be on Sept 15 & 16, golf outing is on 14th.

VII. Mayoral Comments: Inquired about Sensient contract – draft is still at City attorney.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

Motion by Braun/Evans to adjourn meeting at 6:44 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes recorded by:
Laurie Runyan