

**Utility Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, August 7, 2023**  
**6:00 PM at Utility Office Building**

Members Present: Robert Affeld, Ross Canniff, Dick Evans, Bart Coons, Dave Gratton, Alex Smudde, Nick Gahlman, and Mayor Wegener

Members Absent: none

Also Present: Laurie Runyan

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM and roll call was taken. Motion by Canniff/Evans to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Gratton/Evans to approve the minutes from the previous meetings. Motion carried 5-0.

- I. Public Appearances/Comments: none
- II. Monthly Business:
  - A. Approve Vouchers and Checks. Motion by Coons/Gratton to approve payment of WPPI Invoice for \$312,973.32 and checks of \$190,406.69. Motion carried 5-0.
  - B. Review Prior Month Income Statement.
  - C. Council Acts Affecting Utility. None.
  - D. Consumption Loss.
  - E. Review Totals of Delinquent Customers.
- III. Report of Officials:
  - A. Utility Accountant.
  - B. Electric Superintendent
    1. Discuss & Possibly Approve using WPPI GIS Support Services. Mapping software services will be offered by WPPI beginning Jan 2024, similar to meter share service thru WPPI, estimated cost \$13,850 for 1<sup>st</sup> yr, cost is based on usage so may not be that high. Motion by Evans/Coons to approve using WPPI GIS Support Services with a maximum cost of \$13,850 for 2024.
    2. Discuss & Possibly Approve sending forward a “Proudly Public Power” proclamation. In conjunction with MEUW’s 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we’ll be participating in a parade at the State Capitol, and our city can adopt a proclamation and promote that we are proudly a Public Power Utility. Motion by Affeld/Canniff to send this “Proudly Public Power Proclamation” to council for resolution. Motion carried 5-0.
    3. Discuss & Possibly Approve an Out-of-State Mutual Aid Billing Policy. This would most likely be an opportunity for an apprentice to join another utility going to assist in an emergency situation in the U.S., and this policy sets guidelines for billing the affected municipal utility for reimbursement of expenses. Motion by Coons/Gratton to accept the attached Out-of-State Mutual Aid Billing Policy with the exception of the last sentence Motion carried 5-0.
    4. Projects Update. Pipe going in on S Fairfield for faulted cable under 26 is installed. Proper permitting was obtained. Got a call from a customer that lights have been flickering, our voltage checks were ok; a few days later another customer had same issues. Voltages registered every 15 minutes, looked at transformer, nothing obvious, replaced it and everything is good now. Doing oil samples on transformer, may send in

to get refurbished. New service on East St, will energize it tomorrow. Working on emergency load shed plan, detailing step by step procedures. Working on preliminary budget. Nick K's apprentice class was cancelled, not enough contracts to hold class, got a guarantee that class will be rescheduled. Experienced an outage July 10<sup>th</sup>, Sensient doing sheet metal work on one of their buildings, wind blew a panel onto their transformer bank. They wanted us to do the work, not able to since it's privately owned. Had 2 customers lose power during last storm, trees fell on primary line.

C. Water/Wastewater Superintendent

1. Discuss & Possibly Approve how to resolve the lead lateral issue @ 521 E Oak. Customer experiencing low water pressure, found a leak in service lateral, our MSA site rep confirmed that lateral was galvanized with a copper pipe inside. During E Oak street project, Soper did not connect to lateral properly. We temporarily back fed them from the neighbor. A week later, Soper agreed to repair leak, but hesitant because pipe should have been replaced during lateral grant program, Laurie got emergency funding from DNR grant to cover the cost of the lateral. Beaver Plumbing came to replace the lateral, found the galvanized water line was laying directly on top of clay sewer lateral, which would've been damaged while pulling pipe out. Layout of house was difficult to open trench, no room to bore, only feasible fix was to pull sewer and water laterals at same time, estimated cost was \$7,000, DNR grant pays \$5,500. Talked to Soper, fighting paying the overage even though this leak was brought on by their faulty connection. Mayor suggested going to Soper about warranty on their work, failure of workmanship. Mayor gave directive to withhold \$1,500 from Soper's retainage to cover cost of what they should have repaired. Motion by Coons/Affeld to withhold the amount of overage from DNR grant allotment of new lateral from Soper's retainage on E Oak St project.
2. Project Update. Concrete portion of oxidation ditch is completed. There's iron ductile pipe going to building, approx. \$8,000 to replace it, will check iron levels in well to see if pipe is an issue, possibly add as a change order. Power pole at WWTP was struck by lightning and caused a surge, main aeration blowers wouldn't start, called Pieper to troubleshoot. Mayor stated that the blowers aren't on the generator. Surge fried AC compressor and main disconnect switch for that equipment, Pieper replaced switch, Trane came in to replace compressor for AC, some flow monitoring equipment, total cost estimated to be \$15,000, insurance agent said we have lightning strike coverage with \$5,000 deductible. Sable Mech worked on liftstation #1, items were budgeted. The permit testing is about done. New employee starts Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. Columbus had a large water main break, and we supplied them with some parts they needed.

Motion by Evans/Gratton to adjourn meeting at 7:43 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes recorded by: Laurie Runyan