Utilities Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2024 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Mary Dipboye, Leon Huffman, Linda Lindsey, Paul Conway, Michael Poole, Fred Guitton (arrived at 12:08), Alison Yurko (arrived at 12:21)

Staff Present

Director of Electric Utility Dan D'Alessandro; Director of Finance Wes Hamil;, Utility Engineer Manager Mourad Belfakih; Integrated Resource Program Manager Lisa Vedder, Electric Lineman Supervisor Ben Wells

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. D' Alessandro introduced Tara Lamourex, new Assistant Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities.

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting December 11, 2023

Motion made by Mrs. Lindsey to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Conway. Motion unanimously with a 5-0 vote. (Mr. Guitton arrived after vote)

A brief discussion was held on the contents and process for review of minutes. Mr. D'Alessandro said that minutes are to be action minutes, not verbatim, and are reviewed by staff liaisons prior to publishing.

Mr. D'Alessandro stated Mrs. Dipboye had submitted to Mary a proposal for solar that is not on the agenda. Mr. Poole, said he also would like to discuss solar. (Discussed under upcoming agenda items.)

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda)

4. Action Items

5. Non-Action Items

a. Electric Strategic Plan UpdateMr. D'Alessandro said they had two applicants that they interviewed (Quanta & Hometown Connections) with Paul being a member of the interview board. Hometown Connections was chosen to do the Electric Strategic Plan.

Mr. Conway gave a brief summary of the interviews and gave his opinion on the candidates.

b. Water Strategic Plan

Mrs. Lamoureux spoke on behalf of David, and stated an update will be given next meeting.

6. Staff Updates

a. Electric Utility - Dan D'Alessandro

Mr. D'Alessandro stated that the city just received a number of transformers. He discussed the streetlight proposal of installing a streetlight on every corner or 150 feet apart with different output using Dark Sky Compliance streetlights. He will propose to the Commission these lights are installed in conjunction with other projects, but billing area customers and possibly removing streetlight charges has to be discussed.

Mrs. Lindsey asked the report to include the miles undergrounded in the most recent month in addition to the cumulative miles and that the Issues/Concerns be updated as conditions change relative to transformer supply and delivery lead times. She also requested a footnote "a mile is reflected once overhead service is pulled down".

Mr. Poole commented that if the Commission approves the Sustainability Action Plan, including it in this report to track implementation of critical items such as installing a large number of solar panels in seven years.

b. Water & Wastewater Utility – David Zusi

Mrs. Lamoureux being new to the City, and Mr. Zusi being out of the office, there was no update for the water and wastewater

c. Performance Measurement – Wes Hamil

Mr. Hamil presented his report stating electric rates are lower than competitors' rates. Fuel rates were reduced January 1st, 2024. The budget for this year is 420 million kwh, at the most 425 million kwh. More customers were able to utilize the help from United Way due to the city loosening the restrictions. There are no limits to what customers can contribute.

d. Educational Campaign – Clarissa Howard

Mrs. Howard reviewed the inserts for February, such as the emergency utility assistance program, bill information, $50.00 electric leaf blower rebate and a correction to the number of golf carts. Discussion was about residents who might be willing to sell their properties to the city or Habitat for Humanity to offer more affordable housing.

e. Meet Tara Lamoureux - Assistant Director - Water & Wastewater

Ms. Lamoureux introduced herself and provided her professional background.

f. Financial Report - Wes Hamil

Mr. Hamil reviewed the quarterly report summarizing the city is financially solid with no red flags to address.

7. Board Comments

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

Action Items:

a. EV rate policy
b. Decorative Streetlight Policy
c. Solar Rate Structure (June meeting)

Non-Action Items:

a. Water conservation (sprinklers/reclaimed water)
b. Electric Strategic Plan update
c. Water Strategic plan update
d. Water/Electric- extreme heat risk assessment

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Approved by the board on February 27, 2024 with amendments.
/s/ Pam Bracko, Administrative Coordinator