

Minutes of the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for Monday, March 06, 2017.
Immediately Following Board of Aldermen Recessed meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Alderman, Jim Lee, and Chairperson at 7:50 p.m.

Present.

Present also were Mayor Tim Grenke, Aldermen David Wilkins, Andrea Vollrath, Don Rodgers, Landon Magley, Dick Ward and Jim Lee. Also attending were City Administrator Matt Harline, Street & Sanitation Foreman Phil Hoffman, Water & Wastewater Foreman Mike Forsee, Electric Foreman Jeff Armontrout, Police Chief Larry Dudgeon, and City Attorney Charles Thompson. Citizens present were Don Bormann, Robert Hudson and James Smith of the Fireside Guard.

I. Comments from Citizens.

None

II. Electric Department.

A. Activity Report

Lee asked for comments and questions on the Activity Report and there were none.

B. Generation

1. *Electric rate increase:* Harline referred to the handout he had given the Committee and explained that a 5% increase in the energy rate and the base meter fee would result in an energy rate of \$10.18/kilowatt hour (kwh) and a base meter fee of meter fee to \$9.35 per month. Harline said that this may be just a 1-2 year increase as it would make up what we lost in the storm. Grenke said if this (storm) had been declared a disaster then we would have had federal and state assistance but because it was not we have had to pay for it all by ourselves. Looking at the chart, Harline noted that for a small apartment using 400 kwh/month Centralia would still be the lowest rate compared to the City of Fulton, Columbia Power and Light and Boone Electric. Harline said most utilities have different rates for different amounts of usage and type of customer but we do not. Harline added that Columbia has a summer rate. Grenke asked when this would take place and Harline said in the bills that go out on April 1, 2017. Harline said electric rates have not been increased in three years. In answer to a question from Lee, Harline added that the budget pages handed out are based on the assumption that the City would be going forward with the increases. Harline also stated this needs to be done because the cost of Capacity is going up.

C. Distribution

1. *Capital needs and budget review:* Harline said that the list was very similar to the list handed out at the "retreat" except that he has moved the street light project purchase into next year. Harline stated that he is considering lighting at the Recreation Center as well as the LED street light as being part of the energy efficiency project that will require a performance grade audit. Lee started going over capital with each department. This would be done with the individual departments. Harline discussed pay scale assumptions a 1% across the board and then merit based on work performance. Harline reported that the budget included the purchase of a tamping tool and a "backyard machine" for the Electric Department. Harline explained that this piece of equipment would help linemen access lines in back yards and harder to reach areas, instead of using the trucks. Lee asked the brand and Harline said Altec. Armontrout said they rented one once and you can go through a 36 inch area and re-tract the legs.

C. Other
None

III. Public Works

A. Activity Report

Lee asked for comments and questions on the Activity Report. Lee asked about the burning mulch pile and Hoffman said that it was still going.

B. Streets

1. Street Overlay List

Harline talked about street paving for the summer of 2017 and referred to the recommended priority list. The list included three sections of Railroad Street, everything from Jefferson to Hickman, the streets south of the high school and a couple other smaller streets. Harline noted that Mayes Meadows was not on the list but he hoped that with on-call engineering services we could get a plan ready soon and overlay in summer of 2018. Harline stated that the cost is estimated at \$206,521 assuming \$80/ton for asphalt. Harline said that to do all the streets at once would require over a million and a half dollars and we would not have any money for anything else for many years. Harline asked if the Committee was comfortable with the streets on the list and they indicated that they were.

C. Sanitation

1. Commercial trash rate increase

Harline stated that the draft ordinance charges are for commercial trash with a \$3.00/month administrative fee added. Harline noted that at this time we are charging at cost at this time. Harline stated that it also clarifies the amounts for added and special collection. Harline added that residential customers are allowed one large bulky item per week for free, but more than one will be \$7.50+ fee. Harline noted that if you have an overabundance of trash you will get charged more.

D. Storm sewer

Hoffman said he is still putting in a bunch of culverts.

E. Other.

None

IV. WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT.

A. Activity Report

Lee asked for comments and questions on the Activity Report. Forsee answered a question by Lee about the land application system by saying that he is talking to the farmers about the DNR reply. Grenke asked about Matt Rusch. Forsee said that Rusch had passed his Water Distribution test in Macon and did really well.

B. Water

1. Capital needs and budget review

Harline said that requests included a new pickup truck and a four-inch pump but not a backhoe. Harline noted the plans for sewer lining (sewer capital). Forsee is going to put back a year, the purchase of a backhoe. Forsee agreed that they are in need of purchasing a 4x4 truck and a new pump. Forsee explained doing the sewer manhole lining for the summer 2017. He said there is a lot of lateral, Lakeview, Kellogg, and Central infiltration. When there is heavy rain, it shows up. Harline said to restore the amount for materials in both maintenance and operation for both Electric and Water. Harline explained having to redo the electric and water service on Campbell St. if Darren Adams moves forward with developing it. Harline said it's going to be too tough to reuse the materials for the electric but can for the water. Forsee said it would only be

service connections.

C. Sewer

1. Permit update

Grenke asked about lagoons and Lee asked about new ammonia regulations. Forsee said we may possibly be adding disinfectant to help with the e-coli and ammonia. Forsee reported that we have four years to comply. Harline said Bartlett and West are helping with this.

2. Capital needs and budget review

Harline noted that it had been covered under the discussion about the Water Department.

D. Other

1. Water and Sewer rate increases

Harline said we have been able to maintain low rates because of the land application system set up by Al Figuly and Lynn Behrns. A 5% increase across the board will help run the department with five employees, but it is not enough to cover disinfection. Bormann noted that Ashland rates were higher and getting higher still. Harline said the water rates are very competitive and it is typical for sewer rates to be higher than water rates.

V. OTHER.

None

VII. AS MAY RISE.

Rodgers talked about a big tree blocking the ditch on Emerald drive and how it is going to become an issue. Harline is willing to look into this. Grenke said the main thing is to un-block the ditch. Harline discussed clarifying the self-storage units. Harline expressed concern about going on private land to address a problem. Thompson said that the City could address a situation that was a risk to public health. Grenke said that he would like to get the tree trunk out of the ditch.

Harline had been asked about self-storage facilities and where they are considered a permitted use and asked for a motion for clarification from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Magley made a motion to ask the Planning and Zoning Commission to clarify where self-storage facilities can be a permitted or conditional use that was seconded by Vollrath and approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. ADJOURN.

Wilkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Vollrath and approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Committee adjourned 8:40 p.m.