

WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 4, 2010

The regular meeting of the Water and Light Commission was called to order in the Worthington Public Utilities Conference Room at 3:00 P.M., CST, by President Robert J. Demuth with the following members present: Randy Thompson, James Elsing and Gary Hoffmann. Absent was Ron Wood (excused).

Staff members present were Scott Hain, General Manager; Deb Scheidt, Secretary to the Commission

Others present: None

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CLOSURE

Scott Hain, General Manager, requested the addition of *Aclara Contracts* (Case Item #4), *Declare Old Wastewater Unit #300 as Surplus Property* (Case Item #5) and *Pheasants Forever Property Acquisition* (Case Item #9). A motion was made by Commissioner Elsing, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to close the agenda with the requested additions.

WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Elsing and unanimously carried to approve the Water and Light Commission minutes of the regular meeting held December 21, 2009.

CHANGE IN COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Commission welcomed Gary Hoffmann to the Water and Light Commission. Mr. Hoffmann was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Scott Bradley.

2010 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to award non-union utility department employees the same 2% cost-of-living adjustment that the City Council approved for non-union employees in other City departments, effective January 1, 2010.

2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

Scott Hain, General Manager, provided the Commission with the 2010 Water and Light Commission schedule of regular meetings and other meetings of interest. A motion was made by Commissioner Elsing, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to approve the 2010 schedule of regular meetings as presented.

ACLARA CONTRACTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Elsing and unanimously carried to authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary agreements with Aclara for the AMI/AMR/Load Management project.

DECLARE OLD WASTEWATER UNIT #300 AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Hain requested that the Commission declare the old wastewater unit #300 as surplus property as the new vehicle and utility body have been placed into service. He stated some interest in purchasing the unit had been expressed by private parties and that the unit would be advertised and possibly sold based upon the offers received. Should inadequate offers be received, the unit would be placed on the surplus auction.

After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Elsing, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to declare the old wastewater unit #300 as surplus property for disposal through public sale or public auction as per the disposal policy.

YMCA WATER USAGE

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that utility staff has been contacted by YMCA staff regarding what they believe to be excessively high water usage at the new facility. Mr. Hain informed Commission that utility staff has been working with and will continue to work with the YMCA regarding their usage.

2009 BUDGET CARRYOVER ITEMS

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that the purchase of a replacement pickup truck for the Water Department was included in the 2009 Water Department budget. The amount budgeted was \$22,000. The truck was purchased in October 2009 through a state bid but will not be received or paid for until 2010 resulting in a budget carryover from 2009 to 2010.

CHRISTMAS SNOWSTORM

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that utility operations went well during the recent Christmas snowstorm. He did report, however, that the large amount of snow received during the storm resulted in the complete burial of many of the city's fire hydrants. Utility staff will clear as many of the hydrants as possible and will receive assistance from individuals required to perform community service. An ad will also be placed in the Daily Globe requesting help from

homeowners to take time periodically throughout the winter to make sure that fire hydrants near their homes are free of snow and easily accessible. Volunteers from the Worthington Fire Department may also be clearing hydrants over the next couple weekends. Mr. Hain also stated that the snowfall will create issues for the meter readers who are scheduled to begin reading this week. Some meters may be estimated if necessary and customers will be notified of the estimation via their utility bill.

PHEASANTS FOREVER PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that he received a call from a representative of Pheasants Forever stating that they have acquired a parcel of property that WPU currently has water supply easements on as well as two actual production wells. The water supply easements cover an area of approximately one acre. Pheasants Forever stated that they would like to donate the property covered by the water supply easements to the City and would turn the remainder of the property over to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for wild life management purposes. Commissioners Elsing and Thompson expressed concerns relating to safety and liability issues in regards to hunting on the property should the City accept ownership. Mr. Hain stated that he would request an opinion from the City Attorney regarding those issues and would provide that and additional information to the Commission when it becomes available.

UTILITY BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Commissioner Elsing, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to approve the Utility Bills Payable totaling \$98,303.92 for December 23 and December 31, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 P.M., CST. President Demuth declared the meeting adjourned.

Deb A. Scheidt
Secretary to the Commission