

WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 19, 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 Commissioner James Elsing with the following members present: Gary Hoffmann and Ron Wood. Absent were Robert Demuth (excused) and Randy Thompson (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 *December Meter Reading Activity* to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman and unanimously carried to close the agenda with the addition of *December Meter Reading Activity*.

WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoffmann, seconded by Commissioner Wood and unanimously carried to approve the Water and Light Commission minutes of the regular meeting held January 4, 2010.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STAFF REPORTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to accept the electric and water departments' sales reports and the staff reports for December 2009.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE RELATING TO WASTEWATER PERMITS

Discussion was held on the more stringent phosphorus limitations that may be imposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the municipal wastewater treatment plant as a result of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study that was completed for Heron Lake. Scott Hain, General Manager, also reported that the MPCA has indicated that the new permit for the municipal wastewater treatment plant may contain a dechlorination requirement.

Mr. Hain reported that staff has received a proposal from a legal firm to review both the phosphorus and dechlorination issues in order to determine the potential of getting them waived

as a permit condition and was requesting authorization to expend funds to investigate the possibility. As these requirements would also affect the industrial wastewater treatment facility, Mr. Hain reported that JBS Swift management has agreed to pay for 50% of any legal and/or engineering services that we may incur relating to these issues.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for legal and/or engineering services for matters relating to phosphorus and dechlorination permitting issues.

COMMERCIAL SECURITY DEPOSIT REDUCTION REQUEST

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that a commercial customer has requested a reduction in the amount of security deposit required per Worthington Public Utilities' existing customer credit policy.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to follow our existing policy requiring two months security deposit and to offer the customer the opportunity to make the deposit in installments rather than all at one time.

YMCA WATER LOSS

At their January 4, 2010, regular meeting, Commission members were informed that Worthington Public Utilities was contacted by YMCA staff regarding what they believed to be excessively high water usage at the new facility. Staff responded by checking the meter at the facility and found everything to be functioning properly. Since that time, utility staff has been informed by the YMCA that leaks have been detected in the swimming pool and have been temporarily repaired. It is hoped that the leaks will be permanently repaired in the spring when the water from the indoor pool can be transferred to the outdoor pool.

STREET LIGHT INSTALLATION REQUEST

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that he received another inquiry from Worthington School District #518 regarding the installation of additional street lighting at the intersection of Highways 59 & 60 and Flower Lane. The request was made in order to make the intersection easier for bus traffic to see when approaching from Highways 59 & 60 and turning onto Flower Lane. Mr. Hain reported that due to the MN Department of Transportation right-of-way and the abutting railroad right-of-way in that location, Worthington Public Utilities does not have the authority to install an additional street light in that location. Mr. Hain also reminded the Commission that the access to Flower Lane for traffic coming from the southwest will be eliminated once the Highway 60 reconstruction project is completed and that the existing alignment of Highway 60 from Flower Lane to the northeast will become a City or County street.

A request was also made by the school district for additional lighting at the new north entrance (off County Highway 35) at the Worthington Middle School. Mr. Hain reported that that location is within the corporate limits and staff will look at installing additional lighting in the spring.

MRES FEDERAL LEGISLATION POSITION STATEMENTS

Scott Hain, General Manager, provided Commission members with the Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) federal legislative position statements. The statements include information on climate change legislation, legislation expediting the necessary expansion of the nation's transmission grid and action needed to control captive shipping costs and improved rail service.

DECEMBER METER READING ACTIVITY

Scott Hain, General Manager, commended the meter readers for the effort they put forth reading meters during the month of December. Accessing meters was made extremely difficult as a result of the significant accumulation of snow fall that has been received in recent weeks. Out of a total of 9,362 electric and water meters, 8,884 or 94.9% of the meters were read.

UTILITY BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoffmann, seconded by Commissioner Wood and unanimously carried to approve the Utility Bills Payable totaling \$69,124.49 for January 7 and January 14, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 P.M., CST. Commissioner Elsing declared the meeting adjourned.

Deb A. Scheidt
Secretary to the Commission