

# **WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **JANUARY 19, 2021**

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. by Vice-President Mike Harmon with the following members present: Kathy Hayenga, Chad Nixon and Randy Thompson. Absent was Debra Weg (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 the *December 2020 Staff Reports* to the consent agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Nixon, seconded by Commissioner Hayenga and unanimously carried to close the agenda to include the addition of *December 2020 Staff Reports*.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED**

Commissioner Thompson requested that a correction to the December 7, 2020, minutes be made for the Electric Department 2021 Strategic Financial Plan case item. The motion included in the original minutes read as follows: A motion was made by Commissioner Harmon, seconded by Commissioner Nixon and unanimously carried to approve the 2021 Electric Department Strategic Financial Plan as presented. The corrected motion should read as follows: *A motion was made by Commissioner Hayenga, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to approve the 2021 Electric Department Strategic Financial Plan as presented.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayenga, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Water and Light Commission minutes of the regular meeting held on December 7, 2020, to include Commissioner Thompson's request for a correction of the motion for the approval of the Electric Department 2021 Strategic Financial Plan case item
- Staff reports for November and December 2020
- Utility bills payable totaling \$659,913.86 for December 11, December 18 and December 25, 2020 and January 1, January 8 and January 15, 2021

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SALES REPORTS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Hayenga and unanimously carried to accept the financial statements for November 2020 and the sales reports for November and December 2020.

### **DECLARE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT FORKLIFT SURPLUS PROPERTY**

A motion was made by Commissioner Nixon, seconded by Commissioner Hayenga and unanimously carried to declare the Electric Department 1998 Caterpillar forklift surplus property and authorize the sale of the unit to the Public Works Department.

### **DECLARE WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT UNIT #316 SURPLUS PROPERTY**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayenga, seconded by Commissioner Nixon and unanimously carried to declare the Wastewater Department current Unit #316, a 2000 Chevrolet truck and a 35 KW Caterpillar generator, surplus property and authorize disposal of the unit in accordance with the property disposal policy.

### **EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY PAID SICK LEAVE (EPSL) PROVISIONS**

In March 2020, Congress passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which required that public employers provide employees with additional paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The FFCRA provided that employees were eligible for up to two weeks (up to 80 hours) of Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) for specific absences related to COVID-19 occurring between April 1 and December 31, 2020. Congress did not take action to extend the provisions included in FFCRA into 2021.

With the COVID pandemic continuing, staff polled the Compensation Committee (consisting of Council members Kielblock and Ernst and Commissioners Hayenga and Thompson) about extending the EPSL provisions into 2021. Reasons cited for considering the extension included the desire to treat all employees equitably and continuing to encourage employees to not come to work if they are not feeling well.

The recommendation of the Compensation Committee is to extend eligibility for employees to utilize the 80-hour EPSL benefit for qualifying absences from January 1 through June 30, 2021, subject to any State or Federal action that would necessitate reconsideration. Employees who utilized EPSL in 2020 would be limited to the hours, if any, remaining from the originally available 80 hours.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Hayenga and unanimously carried to approve the recommendation of the Compensation Committee contingent on City Council approval.

### **PROJECT UPDATE**

Commissioners Thompson and Nixon and Scott Hain, General Manager, provided an update on the Glenwood Heights housing project. Mr. Hain provided an update on the Diagonal Road shop renovation project.

### **COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Commission Committee Reports.

**GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

The General Manager had nothing additional to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Nixon, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 P.M. Vice-President Harmon declared the meeting adjourned.

Deb A. Scheidt  
Secretary to the Commission