

WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING MARCH 22, 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 President Debra Weg with the following members present: Kathy Hayenga, Chad Nixon and Randy Thompson.

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

Others present: Amy Ernst, City Council Member

President Weg took a moment to reflect on the loss of Commissioner Harmon who passed away unexpectedly on March 4, 2021.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CLOSURE

A motion was made by Commissioner Nixon, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to close the agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

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 March 1, 2021
- Staff reports for February 2021
- Utility bills payable totaling \$376,551.44 for March 5, March 12 and March 19, 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SALES REPORTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Nixon, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to accept the financial statements and sales reports for February 2021.

WATER DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Eric Roos, Water Superintendent, provided an update on the Water Department. The update included staffing, succession planning and information on department facilities.

APPROVE PLANS AND AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR 2021 CLARY STREET AND MCMILLAN STREET CONCRETE RESTORATION

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that the 2021 Water Department budget includes \$665,600 for the final replacement of the concrete surfacing removed for the 2019 water main

replacement on Clary Street from near Fredrick Avenue to McMillan Street and McMillan Street from Oxford Street to near Tenth Street. The total estimated project cost for the water portion of both contracts, including engineering and contingencies, is \$560,000. Due to Independent School District #518's schedule, the work will not be allowed to start before June 1, 2021, and is to be completed by August 25, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Hayenga and unanimously carried to approve the plans for the Clary Street and McMillan Street Concrete Restoration project and authorize an advertisement for bids to be received on April 28, 2021, and considered for award at the May 3, 2021, Commission meeting.

GENERAL UPDATE

Scott Hain, General Manager, provided an update on the following:

- The City Council will be considering the appointment of Councilperson Amy Ernst to the Water and Light Commission at their March 22, 2021, regular meeting. Amy would fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Harmon who passed away unexpectedly on March 4, 2021.
- Due to Commissioner Harmon's passing, the Commission will be requested to consider appointments to officer seats and committee appointments at their April 5, 2021, regular meeting.
- The City Council will be requested to consider an appointment to the City Council at their April 12, 2021, regular meeting to fill the unexpired City Council term of Commissioner Harmon.
- Glen Faragher, Electric Department, retired effective March 16, 2021, after 41 years of service with Worthington Public Utilities. Nine Lineworker applications were received and interviews are being conducted.
- Starr Standafer, Customer Service Representative, will retire effective May 31, 2021, after 32 years of service with Worthington Public Utilities. Thirty-seven applications were received to fill the position and are being reviewed.
- Following Commission approval on March 1, 2021, to engage in the MRES offered program to make all WPU electricity sales 100% carbon-free effective with January 1, 2021 sales, there has been an article in the online edition of The Globe and the information will also be included in our quarterly newsletter and on the Worthington Public Utilities website.
- Mr. Hain reported that the Nobles County Public Health Department informed him on Monday, March 15, 2021, that they were expecting an increased amount of vaccine and that any Worthington Public Utilities (WPU) employees who had not yet been vaccinated and were interested in receiving the vaccination could do so. Those 11 employees received their vaccinations on March 18-19, 2021. All WPU employees wanting the vaccination have received at least their first shot through Nobles County or another affiliation.
- Test drilling on the properties near Well #25 and Well #26 is expected to begin within the next few weeks.

- Although no official change orders for the Diagonal Road shop renovation project have yet been received, Mr. Hain indicated that he was aware of nine items so far that will add approximately \$28,000 to the contract price.
- An Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting will be held on March 23, 2021. The agenda includes the following:
 - A resolution will be presented and considered for adoption that EDA formally accept ownership of the Dugdale property from the City of Worthington
 - The Housing Committee will request EDA approval of their proposed lot prices
 - Discussion on setting a direction for the development of covenants and/or a Planned Unit Development for the Glenwood Heights Second Addition.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Thompson reported that he thought the agenda for the Missouri River Energy Services 56th annual meeting being held via webinar on May 5, 2021, looked good. Additional information will be provided to the Commission once it is received.

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 4:18 P.M. President Weg declared the meeting adjourned.

Deb A. Scheidt
Secretary to the Commission