

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4p.m., 450 S. Main Street
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Sawle, Nice, Schaub, Collins, Melby, Heiar via WebEx (4:07), and Downs (4:38)

Members absent: None

Others present: Fischer, Gald, Mueller, and Krueger

President Sawle called the meeting to order at 4:05p.m. The meeting had been properly posted.

Motion by Collins, second by Schaub to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

Treasurer's report was received and filed.

Motion by Nice, second by Schaub to approve the Electric Bills for November totaling \$ 713,245.96. Also acknowledges the balance for October, thus totaling \$1,050,717.11. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Collins, second by Schaub to approve the Water Bills for November totaling \$454,299.26. Also acknowledges the balance for October, thus totaling \$199,476.54. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Sawle to approve the Sewer Bills for November totaling \$332,855.30. Also acknowledges the balance for October, thus totaling \$205,698.43. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

The department heads met with Heiar and Schaub to present their 2024 Budgets. Both commissioners felt that there was not anything out of the ordinary and the department heads did a nice job with their presentations. Heiar made a motion to approve the 2024 Budgets, second by Schaub. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

President Sawle informed the commission that Commissioner Nice would like to be removed from the personnel and finance committee. Sawle made a motion to nominate himself for the committee, second by Nice. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer addressed the commission with the need to have a rate case study done for the wastewater. Town and Country will provide the services. The rate case study will help decide if a rate increase is necessary. A motion by Sawle, second by Melby to approve a rate case study for the wastewater by Town & Country. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

We received a letter asking for a donation for Symons Recreation Complex. Scott and Vanessa discussed it with James and the funds would come from WPPI's community fund. A motion by Schaub, second by Collins to donate \$500.00 to Symons Recreation Complex. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

For safety Fischer reported that his new hire Brad Wilson will be taking his CDL test in Iowa. It is a two day event, plus he went online to get his permit. MEUW was in town doing safety training.

Electric Superintendent Gald reported that after the pole inspections were done we had 6 that were dangerous and 5 that were rejects. We will replace them. John and Scott wet with Gald to Madison for MEUW Anniversary on October 18th for Public Power. He has been working on the budget. Scott also reported that the cameras are online. His crew spent 2 ½ days working on the Rotary Lights. Gald mentioned to the commission that he was in attendance at the Council meeting because there were some banners that were in question that were put up on the Utilities' poles. There is an ordinance against that. The banners have been a hot topic.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported next week his crew is hoping to hydro vac some unknown lead services. The seasonal meters have been turned off. There was talk of an ice skating rink at Stori Field but Steve is against the idea. The hydrants are winterized and valve exercising is complete for the year. Terry did take his first 2 DNR tests. He passed distribution and failed groundwater. There was a water main break up by the hospital on October 17th. All of the dugout spots from lead service replacements are patched. The water department has started to monitor ground temps. The auditors will be here December 18th and 19th and then back again mid-January for the audit. The East Reservoir had a ROD inspection. On October 18th was the second round of PFAS testing and the results are not back yet. Dept. heads met with the development team for upcoming street projects. There is a meeting with MSA for next year projects. Well #7 has had some issues with the neighbors on both sides. Steve tried to handle the situation as politely as he could. Steve reported from Andy Zimmer that for Phase 3 there is a joint meeting tomorrow night. There are 5 interested prequalified construction companies. Andy did apply for funding for lead service replacement funding on behalf of the water utility.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that the Allison Park Sewer Replacement Contract has \$3,092.16 left and Andy recommends final payment. Todd was at the council meeting last night because the Mayor asked him to be. There is a resident in town that would like a portion of his driveway paved. It is city property Todd explained that the portion in question is part of a future street project and to pave it now would be a waste. Todd reported that Schreiber's is no longer on our system. The bill from September is \$15,600.00 and the bill for October so far is \$42,719.51. It could cost them close to \$70,000.00 when all done. There has not been a new contract drawn up yet at this time. The DOT has release plans for the HWY 14 project Bohman Drive to Hwy 80. Plans are for new traffic lights and big concrete bases. One of the bases is right over both of our forced mains. The DOT told Todd he had to move those mains and Todd told them he can't so they changed their plans.

Office Manager reported that the new electric rates went into effect November 1st, and with that the utility is now absorbing the credit card fees. Sawle commented that for the next meeting he would like to discuss the rate stabilization fund for possible review or change.

There was nothing for correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Collins commented on the trip to Madison around the capital. Sawle also really enjoyed it as well. Downs asked if we would receive any payout from the PFAS class action suit. Steve explained that we are a part of it but because there have not been any found, there is no payout. Sawle is concerned about making sure we follow the rules and do everything correctly and was wondering which attorney he should reach out to. Boardman Clark is the firm the Utility uses.

A motion by Collins, second by Downs to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:15p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller