



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 01, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present: Darla LeClair, Tim Petri, Jeff Dahlke

Staff & Others: Matthew Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Dave Casebeer, Brian Dellemann, Andrew Sukowaty

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the March 5, 2024, Public Utilities Meeting

Tim Petri made a motion to approve the March 5, 2024, Public Utilities Meeting minutes, seconded by Jeff Dahlke. Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Michael Pitsch, 111 Starlight Drive, Francis Creek, voiced a concern over the service being provided by Charter Communications/Spectrum Mid-America in that he believes he is not getting the internet speeds that are being advertised by them. Mr. Pitsch is bringing this to our attention because Charter/Spectrum is based out of Two Rivers for this area. Mr. Pitsch has a background in computer engineering and has performed various tests to try and substantiate his claims. He is inquiring as to if there are other providers in the Two Rivers area and what is the basis for just Charter/Spectrum servicing this area. Brian Dellemann, Electric Utility Director, responded that the primary reason Charter/Spectrum is the primary provider in Two Rivers goes back to the cable television days and franchise agreements. Brian also noted that there are other providers in the area.

5. **CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

A. Roosevelt Avenue reconstruction

Construction began the week of March 25th with removal of pavement and placement of temporary water service tie ins.

Beginning the week of April 1st, temporary water service tie-ins continued. Excavation to the sanitary sewer main at Roosevelt and 12th began and will continue throughout the week.

Access to the southside polling location at Abundant Life Church was improved with additional signage guiding traffic from 12th Street down Hawthorne Avenue to this location.

6. WASTEWATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION

A. Sludge screw press project update

Dave Casebeer provided an update that the screw press is still running. The past two weeks have been producing much drier sludge and it is a learning curve on what should be done to keep it consistent.

B. Riverside Foods update - Right-of-way Privilege Agreement

Matthew Heckenlaible provided a copy and overview of the right-of-way privilege agreement that will be discussed at the City Council meeting. In short, Riverside Foods is proposing to install and modify private process sewers under Wilson Street from the west side to a grease trap on the east side of Wilson Street to aid in managing the fat, oil and grease (FOG) being discharged from their facility. This is to aid in minimizing these FOG issues within the public collection system and at the wastewater treatment plant.

C. 100 HP blower motor

Dave Casebeer informed the committee that a 2003 motor seized up about two months ago and we had it removed and taken in for diagnostics and hopefully repair. Quotations were obtained to repair and purchase a new motor. The cost to repair the motor far exceeded the cost to replace it; and, by ordering last week, it saved us approximately \$250 in shipping costs. The new motor could arrive as soon as the week of April 8.

7. ELECTRIC AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS UTILITIES: DIRECTOR UPDATES AND ACTION IF APPLICABLE

A. Substation update

Brian Dellemann updated the committee as to the status of the transformer repairs caused by the July 2023 failure. The contractor should be tentatively on site to begin repairs the week of April 8, 2024, weather pending. If the weather is cold or wet, the contractor may need to build an enclosure (at a substantial cost) that is meant to keep the internal components dry. Hoping for good, dry weather. All costs are going to be submitted to the insurance company for processing.

B. New digger truck status update

Brian Dellemann stated that they just received word that their digger truck that was originally scheduled to be delivered in September of 2023 has arrived at the dealer for inspection. It might be ready for delivery later this spring.

The dealer was asked regarding the status of a recently ordered bucket truck that is supposed to arrive in 2025. The reason for the question was whether to budget the cost of the truck for receipt in 2025 or will it drag out into 2026.

C. Large project update

Brian Dellemann stated that with the very mild winter they were able to begin some of their larger projects such as aerial to underground conversion. The conduits are in and just need to pull the wires through and make the necessary connections. The electric utility provided advance notice to other private utilities that were connected to the existing poles and provided

them the opportunity to go underground at the same time. Most other utilities took advantage of this opportunity, except for Frontier Communication.

Other projects that they are working on are the pole replacement along the Roosevelt Avenue corridor, the extension of a primary service to the end of Browns Drive for some proposed new development and planning for the next phase of Sandy Bay Highlands subdivision.

D. End of Winter Moratorium - April 15th

Brian Dellemann wanted to remind the committee that the winter disconnection moratorium ends on April 15th and that all accounts that have past due balances are receiving notifications to contact Customer Service to become current on the accounts or make appropriate arrangements. If customers do nothing, they will look at disconnection notices. Presently, there is in excess of \$400,000 of delinquent payments. Dellemann stated that dollar amount usually drops significantly as April 15th comes around.

8. WATER UTILITY: DIRECTOR UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND ACTION, AS NEEDED

A. Scattered lead water service replacements (2024) - Proposed program discussion

Matthew Heckenlaible recapped that the council took action by modifying city ordinances to lay the framework of allowing the city to borrow Safe Drinking Water Fund money. By doing this, it allows the city the ability to loan out those dollars to private residences for the replacement of lead and galvanized iron water services.

Heckenlaible also informed the committee as to how engineering and water utility presently create estimates with an overview of a revised estimate form and an updated agreement form. The updates to the forms outline the current terms as to when full payment for the water services would be due and what payment options exist if the balance of work is in excess of \$250 with the ability to finance the balance over a period of five years.

B. Lead and copper sampling

Andrew Sukowaty informed the committee that all 60 testing locations have been obtained and arrangements are being made to collect the required samples. The sample results to date look promising thus far, but he will tabulate all the results and report the final results once they are available.

C. Caustic feed

Andrew Sukowaty stated that upon the completion of the lead and copper sampling, they will be discontinuing the caustic chemical feed. Once they are completely off the caustic feed, it will save the water utility approximately \$60,000 per year.

D. Water tower maintenance

Andrew Sukowaty's update was that they are still awaiting responses back from the consultant and that they are putting together necessary paperwork prior to the fall contract renewal.

E. Generator update

Andrew Sukowaty informed the committee that approximately 3-months ago, their primary 500KW backup generator failed with most of the internal electronic components failing and non-replaceable due to the age of the generator. He is working on obtaining estimates for a new generator and is anticipating costs between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

9. STORM WATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION, AS NEEDED

A. Urban Non-Point Planning Grant

Matthew Heckenlaible informed the committee that he and Scott Ahl had a virtual kickoff meeting with McMahon in the early part of February to discuss the grant and scope of work in order to update the city's stormwater program. The process will also determine what it will take to achieve compliance with our WDNR MS4 permit and the newly approved Northeast Lakeshore TMDL.

B. Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

The TMDL has been approved. Any future updates will be what the city needs to do in order to obtain compliance. As mentioned to the Environmental Advisory Board, engineering will be looking for participation and input as to what types of projects and processes will need to be undertaken to achieve compliance.

C. Sandy Bay Highlands - Phases 3 & 4

Matthew Heckenlaible informed the committee that the WDNR has issued a determination that the small wetland within the proposed cul-de-sac is exempt and that we will be able to fill it in as part of our proposed project. We are still awaiting the final WDNR paperwork prior to finalizing utility and pavement designs. Hoping to have construction underway in late spring of 2024.

10. SOLID WASTE UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION, AS NEEDED

A. North landfill update

We are still awaiting WDNR approval on the modified work plan to deal with the seep in the westerly portion of the north landfill.

B. Recycling annual report

The Annual Recycling Report has been prepared and is in the review process. Once that is completed, it will be submitted to WDNR by the end of April.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OR ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, WITH DISCUSSION AND ACTION - None

12. SET DATE, TIME, LOCATION, AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Proposed for Monday, May 6, 2024, at 5:00 pm prior to Council Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT: 5:54 pm

Tim Petri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeff Dahlke. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: *Matthew R Heckenlaible*
Public Works Director / City Engineer