



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Committee Room - 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: Darla LeClair, Tim Petri, Jeff Dahlke – All present

City Staff: Matt Heckenlaible, Scott Ahl, Dave Casebeer, Andrew Sukowaty and Brian Dellemann

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the August 7, 2023, Public Utilities Committee Meeting

Jeff Dahlke made a motion to approve the August 7, 2023, Public Utilities Committee Meeting minutes, seconded by Tim Petri – Motion passed.

4. PUBLIC INPUT - None

5. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

A. Lincoln Street from 17th Street to 22nd Street (2023)

Contractors are working on finishing crosswalk ramps at intersections along with working on restoration of terraces the week of September 4, 2023. All other significant paving has been completed. The road was opened to local traffic at 19th Street, 20th Street and 21st Street prior to Labor Day weekend.

B. Lateral replacement (2023)

Both water service and sanitary lateral replacement work have been completed for this contract.

C. Roosevelt (2024)

Notification letters were sent out to residents on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. Engineering received a few basic inquiries about it. Significant design work has yet to begin.

D. Scattered Laterals (2024)

A notification letter will be sent to approximately 200-250 properties in the near southwesterly portion of the City, approximate limits being Lowell Street to Monroe Street and Memorial Drive to 12th or 13th Streets, informing them of the proposed water service and sanitary lateral work. Andrew Sukowaty stated the Water Utility will be sending out letters as well try and gain access to some properties to pre-determine the water service material and whether some of these property owners would be willing to participate in the lead and copper testing being required by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

6. WASTEWATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION

A. Sludge screw press project

Still waiting on electrical parts/equipment.

B. Roof Replacement

Contractor has been on site for the past several days working on replacing the old roof sections.

C. Riverside Foods - Riverside Foods ramped up production on two (2) lines as Wastewater staff saw an increase in solids at the plant which is having an impact on treatment. Dave Casebeer stated that we continue to communicate our findings with them but do not always get the same proactive communication from them. Casebeer wants to get the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) involved to help move this situation along. City staff and Riverside Foods staff have a meeting scheduled for August 29, 2023, to discuss Riverside Foods' progress to date, what course of action they are heading in and what actions the City proposes to take to help resolve this situation.

Riverside is awaiting financial authorization from their Board and the start of the next fiscal year, November 1, 2023, to begin any capital projects. They have retained the services of Excel Engineering out of Fond du Lac to assist them in designing a best management practice to reduce the amount of BOD and solids that are entering our sanitary sewer system. They have also had discussions with a laboratory that would be doing their sampling but have not retained them as they want to consolidate the sampling locations to minimize costs.

City Staff informed them that WDNR desires to see movement on this situation or they may step in and take enforcement actions. Next meeting scheduled for November 15, 2023, at 11 am.

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

A. Columbus Substation update/progress

Electric Utility personnel along with a consultant have determined that three (3) pieces of equipment failed within the substation causing the electrical disruption on July 14th in the northerly portion of the City. Electric Utility staff will attempt to obtain parts for this 1960's vintage transformer and determine the cause of the part failures as nothing was evident in annual inspections and testing. The Utility has spent approximately \$20,000 to date and are hoping to successfully add this to an insurance claim with a deductible of \$10,000.

Unit 2 transformer remains offline and will be for a while yet. The consultant/contractor is still trying to find or make replacement parts and are hoping to have it back in service around February 2024. On August 23, the Electric Utility observed a peak usage of 20.5 megawatts. Each of the transformers have a 20 megawatt output capacity, therefore the City can run off the two remaining transformers.

B. Electric meter upgrades

The Electric Utility had been notified that the 'new' A3 electric meters that are being installed, with some still on back order, are now being upgraded to 'A4' models that will provide real time usage data as opposed to daily usage. The Electric Utility has placed an order for approximately 1,000 new A4 meters at a cost of \$145,000. The Electric Utility needs to replace meters on a routine basis and have fallen behind in doing so. With the A3 models that are on backorder and the newly ordered A4 models, there should be an ample supply for several years to come. Another benefit of some of the meters is that they will be able to be remotely

disconnected rather than having to physically enter a private dwelling and potentially place staff into an unpleasant situation.

C. Environmental Advisory Winter Presentation by Electric Department

Brian Dellemann stated that he will be a guest speaker at the first Environmental Advisory Board's winter educational series being held at the Lester Library. He will be speaking on renewable energy resources, ways on how not to waste energy and other related topics. Brian is also trying to have a representative from WPPI there as well.

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

A. Rate comparison discussion

Andrew Sukowaty provided the Committee a copy of the July 2023 edition of "the Connection", a utility mailer, prepared by Manitowoc Public Utilities (MPU). Andrew stated that Two Rivers Water Utility costs have increased in some areas 30-50% and they are continuing to keep costs within the current budget. In "the Connection," it shows that MPU current water rates are the lowest of the 18 other utilities compared again along with the state average and Class AB average. Andrew pointed out that the utilities on the lower end of the comparison chart are also wholesale water suppliers. MPU sells water to other communities, primarily the Brown County Water Authority at a marked up rate which offsets the local user rate. Some of the members of the Brown County Water Authority include Allouez, Bellevue, Ledgeview Sanitary District #2, and Howard. Those communities have rates near or exceed those rates of the Two Rivers Water Utility. The takeaway of this conversation is that it is not always an easy direct comparison, there may be other factors that contribute to more of an apple to orange comparison.

B. Chemical feed update

Water Utility staff have been assembling the necessary equipment for the orthophosphate feed pumping system being mandated by WDNR. This system needs to be operational by September 28, 2023, to remain in compliance with our current permit. Water Utility staff believe that the system should be fully operational, after programing by an outside contractor, and necessary testing around the middle of September.

The Department of Natural Resources is requiring the Utility to perform testing for lead and copper coming out of private residence as they had several years ago. The Water Utility will be sending out approximately 60 letters to property owners who have participated in the sampling in the past along with new property owners to see if they would be willing to participate.

C. Tower painting/inspection update

The East water tower will be down for approximately 6 weeks for renovation work starting in the middle of August. There will be additional traffic and people near the water tower for some much needed painting, hatch work and installation of the City Logo on the exterior.

D. Uni-directional flushing (UDF)

Over the course of the next several months, Water Utility staff will continue flushing hydrants as part of the Unidirectional Flushing Program (UDF). The UDF helps scour the pipes to get unwanted particles from within the water main system by forcing all the water and debris in a single direction starting at the Water Treatment Plant and working towards the far ends of the system. This may cause the water coming out of faucets to be temporarily cloudy, so if you notice it, let the water run a little while until it becomes clear. If residents have questions, they can reach out to the Water Utility for additional information.

9. STORM WATER UTILITY: UPDATES AND ACTION AS NEEDED

A. Urban Non-point Planning Grant

As stated at the August 7, 2023, Committee Meeting, we received an email from the WDNR that included an application scoring spreadsheet showing that the City will be receiving a Grant but have not received any further official notification from the WDNR.

B. Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

The latest Public Comment period ended September 1, 2023. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will review and address any comments received and then will hopefully submit to EPA for final review and approval of the TMDL by late 2023.

10. SOLID WASTE: UPDATES AND ACTION AS NEEDED

A. North Landfill – WDNR Notice of Noncompliance

As previously noted at the Committee's last meeting, the City was ordered to prepare and submit a "Work Plan" to the WDNR prior to July 14th. With the assistance of AECOM, the City completed and submitted the work plan prior to the deadline. City staff participated in a virtual meeting with the WDNR to review the work plan and obtain verbal concurrence, which was provided by the Department, to proceed with additional investigations and testing to determine if there are any impacts downstream and off site of the seep. Work on this phase of the investigation is to occur in early August. Letter report should be submitted to the City for review the week of September 4, 2023.

B. Discussion on Recycling/Solid Waste Collection Contract

Need to begin drafting a revised agreement between Manitowoc Disposal and the City.

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, October 2, 2023, at 5:00 pm prior to Council Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT: 5:54 pm

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