

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

5:30 p.m.

The Public Works Commission met on the above date and time. The following members were present: Alderpersons Brad Blanke, Dan Bartz, Myron Moldenhauer, and Tony Arnett. Absent: Citizen member Pete Thompson. Also present: City Staff Andrew Beyer, Pete Hartz.

1. **Call to order.** Chairperson Arnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Comments and Suggestions from Citizens Present.** No comments received.
3. **Review and take possible action: Approve Change Order No. 1 submitted by Forest Landscaping and Construction, Inc. for \$89,070.00.** Mr. Blanke asked if this change order was anticipated. It was. Mr. Bartz asked if this was trenching or resurfacing. It is “modified resurfacing”. Mr. Blanke moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Moldenhauer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. **Update, no action required: 2025 Street & Utility Construction.** Andrew Beyer briefly reviewed the written report he submitted updating progress on 2025 construction projects.
5. **Review and take possible action: Approve new water rates as recommended by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) referenced in rate case docket 6230-WR-110; a final overall rate change of 15.28% over current rates.** As previously requested, Pete Hartz reported back that the State will not allow us to spread the rate increase over multiple years. It is all or nothing. Brian Reimer from Ellers was also present to answer questions. Mr. Blanke commented it appeared there was “zero local control” on this issue. Mr. Bartz had researched a few other area communities who recently increased rates, including Beaver Dam with a 20% increase (their last rate increase was also in 2017, like Watertown.) Brian Reimer confirmed there is little local control over these rate increases and that if we waited until next year, the rate would likely go up. He also mentioned that the Ellers report included a recommended 10-year rate plan with 2 much smaller, “simplified” rate increases in the next 5 years that will help avoid another large rate increase like this in the future. Mr. Moldenhauer moved to approve the rate increase, seconded by Mr. Bartz. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Moldenhauer also moved to direct staff to follow the 10-year plan mentioned by Brian Reimer and prepare the “simplified” rate increases at the timing indicated in the report. Mr. Blanke seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
6. **Adjournment.** Mr. Blanke moved to adjourn at 5:58 p.m., seconded by Mr. Moldenhauer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Arnett, Chairperson