

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 AT 5:30 PM

Commission members present: Dan Bartz, Fred Smith, Pete Thompson Bob Wetzel
City employees present: Water Department Manager Pete Hartz (remote)
Assistant Water Department Manager Tim Hayden

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Public Works minutes from July 9, 2024

Motion to approve Ald. Bartz

2nd Ald. Wetzel

Carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS

A. Review and take possible action: approve license agreement between City of Watertown and T-Mobile for equipment located on the O'Connell Water Tower (Cellular Site ML82089A). Tim Hayden was on hand to explain the nuances of the new agreement. Pete and he recommended approval of the new agreement which includes a new lease term and the new equipment upgrades.

Motion to approve Ald Bartz

2nd Ald Wetzel

Carried by unanimous voice vote

B. Review and take possible action: approve entering into an agreement with Elhers Public Finance Advisors to provide a study of the current water rates.

Pete Hartz gave an update on plans for the city-wide private and public lead service replacements (1,500) and recommended initiating the water rate study and review promptly to ensure that the city stays on schedule, The water department has submitted all the necessary application materials to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. As part of this process the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin will require a conventional rate case review to authorize Watertown's city-wide replacement project. Typically, the rate case review process takes approximately 6 – 9 months. Our goal is to commence the project in the second quarter of 2025. The estimated lead service replacement is approximately \$14.5 million, although the loan amount and debt service payment is still pending with the State. Some of the loan may qualify for principal forgiveness, but it will not be 100% as it has been in the past few years.

The 1500 lead service replacements will complete this multi-year project.

Ald. Bartz asked what other company was involved in the process. Tim Hayden said that Baker Tilly was the other party.

Motion to approve Ald Smith

2nd Ald Bartz

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn Ald Bartz
2nd Ald Smith
Carried by unanimous voice vote
Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wetzel
Acting Public Works Commission Chair

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.