

NOTICE

Municipal Services Committee
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 31st 2022 at 5:00 pm

Meeting will be held in person at the City Hall, 31 S Madison St Evansville, WI.

MINUTES

1. **Call meeting to order: 5:00PM**
2. **Roll call:** Chairperson Alder. Jim Brooks, Alder. Joy Morrison, Alder. Ben Ladick
Also in Attendance: Dale Roberts, Bill Lathrop, Chad Renly, Donna Hammett, Tim Heinrich-MEUW, Nick Bubolz, and Kerry Lindroth.
3. **Civility Reminder**
4. **Motion to approve the agenda as presented.** Ladick/Morrison 3-0
5. **Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes as printed from the April 26th, 2022 regular Municipal Services Committee meeting.** Ladick/Morrison 3-0 with spelling correction under 9a.
6. **Citizen appearances other than agenda items.**
 - **MEUW – Tim Heinrich**-is the Executive Director of MEUW (Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin). MEUW has been around for a little over 90 years as the trade association representing Municipal Electric Utilities. Heinrich is here for 3 reasons, first is to thank Evansville Water & Light for participating in MEUW, next to congratulate Evansville Water & Light on their 2021 Gold Safety Award from APPA, and third to present Jim Brooks with the Philip F La Follette Public Official Award. The honor is presented to individuals who have demonstrate an extraordinary level of commitment to public power through policies. Brooks is a long time member of the WPPI Board of Director, recently became chairperson of WPPI Policy and Leadership council, Brooks was elected to APPA Policy Makers council in 2015 and will beginning a term as chairperson next month, which makes him a member of the APPA Board of Directors. Congratulation to Jim Brooks.
 - MEUW main objective is to draw attention to Public Power, local control and reliable service. MEUW will be 95 years old in 2023, and in October there will be a Public Power Parade, they are hoping to have all of the 81 Member to bring a bucket truck to Madison for the Public Power Parade.
7. **Billing / Customer Service:**
 - a. **Quarterly review and discussion of staff approved sanitary sewer billing adjustments,**
(Jan, Apr, **Jul**, Oct).
 - b. **Disconnections Update**-Hammett updated the committee on April and May disconnections. On April 27, 2022 there were 19 service disconnected, by the end of the day we had 2 service still off and 13 DPA's on file. On May 26, 2022 there were 15 services disconnected, by the end of the day there were 7 services still off and 21 DPA's on file. At the time of this meeting there are a total of 2 services still off.

April arrearage: 60 days + past due \$100,512.87, 30 days past due \$81,529.09

May arrearage: 60 days+ pat due \$35,235.59, 30 days past due \$70,279.86

8. Director's Report:

- a. Parks and Recreation Report:** Andersen and Fischer have been mowing the Park and Cemetery, the grass seems to be growing rapidly. The new Frisbee container is out.
- **Warming House / Band Stand Stairs:** Taped off for repairs
 - **Remaining Gabion Basket Section:** Wethal will be finishing up the capstone on the creek wall in the next few weeks. Renly stated that there should be something left from the dam budget to finish of the remaining gabion basket section, it will be about \$16,000 finish it. Brooks was asked if there was going to be any kind of recognition for Kendal and crew for the work they have done on the creek wall. Seargent stated that something was being worked on.
- b. AMI Project (Placeholder)**
- **Current AMI count remaining- Elec: 0 Water: 222-**In the next few weeks we have been told that we will be get in the new modules. If this doesn't happen, we have 2 other utilities that are willing to help up out, New London has finished their AMI project and have a large supply and are willing to help us out and Kaukauna just got their order in and is willing to help us until we get our order in. Brooks asked if we would be able to get them in by Labor Day. Hammett stated that it would depend on our customers, being that the water meters are inside we will need to have customer make appointments for us to install the water meters.
- c. Lake Leota Dam DNR Award Approval:** The approval letter from the DNR came through. The award notice has been sent to Highway Landscape, we are just waiting for paperwork from them at this time.
- d. STH 59 Sidewalk RR Crossing Update-** Enclosed it the final decision from the Office of the Commissioners of Railroads, about the sidewalk. The Final order the Roadway Authority shall install and maintain a Sidewalk Closed (R9-9) signs with detectable tiles, audible information devices and orange and white type 2 barricades at the east ends of the sidewalks on the north and south side of STH 59 by June 8, 2022. Also the Roadway Authority shall install and maintain Sidewalk Closed Ahead (R9-11) signs and black lettering on yellow background signs indicating no sidewalk access at a sufficient distance to allow sidewalk users to safely change routes, by June 8, 2022. This will cost a little over \$2000.00 dollars to close the sidewalk. This sidewalk should have never been there in the first place, permission was never give to cross the Union Pacific's right away. In the end it is an unsafe crossing.
- e. Columbarium Discussion-** Cost to get a new Columbarium is up to \$43,000, this is the same place where we purchased the first one, which at that time was only \$29,000. Renly has looked into other companies but the cost is still over budget. The other option is to do work on the current Columbarium, we the center piece to grate a double niche from a single niche. Fischer ordered new doors and only one of them was cut correctly. Fischer went to TC Countertops here in Evansville and they are going to cut and fix the doors for free, as he was talking to them, we asked if they would be interested in making a new Columbarium, he was interested but he is having trouble finding a big enough granite slab but is still looking. Renly has also been in contact with a company in Madison that may be interested also.

- f. **Rate Case Update & Discussion-** Renly has been working with WPPI and the PSC. The Plan was to include the sub-station and southern rural circuit like what we have done with water. The PSC says that we are unable to do a step rate case and cannot include the work on the sub and southern rural circuit with this rate case because it's split between to many years. The idea is to use 2022 as the test year and in 2025 as the sub-station work gets finished up we can do a new rate case then. Brooks asked if we have been communicating with the rate payers, Renly stated that we are doing the feel good advertising, and wants to put out the numbers and why we need a rate increase in a 2nd phase. Question was if the rate case would be done this year, Renly stated that most rate cases are currently taking about one year.

9. City Engineer Report:

- a. **Sub-division / Development Update:** Porter Rd construction has started from the urban to rural area, from the curb and gutter stopped up to 7th Street, this will open the Westfield portion and should be done in the next few months. The newer Porter Rd area is waiting a DNR approval.
- b. **Inflow and Infiltration Study (Placeholder)**
- c. **Water Quality-** The flushing plan has started. Seems to be going well. Hammett stated that there have been no complains, just calls wondering where they are in the flushing schedule.

There is some grant money from the DNR, money has been approved for Evansville so residents can replace their lead or galvanized water service line from the curb stop to the house meter. Bubolz presented a draft letter for residents explaining the program. Discussion on how the program would work. Brooks asked what the next 5 years of street projects, Bubolz stated Liberty, Almeron, Walker, Church, Cherry St, Enterprise St, S First St, the grant money only pays from the curb stop to the house meter, and the DNR says if the city's side of the lateral needs to be replaced, it all has to be replaced and the city is going to have pay for the street and up to the curb stop. Bubolz is looking for the committee to look at the draft and make changes if needed and bring back in order to get it ready for council and a possible resolution/ordinance.

d. Roadway construction & other project updates.

- **First & Second St Projects-**Need to work on some cleanup work some of the restoration work by the school finished.
- **Liberty St Project-** Work is still prepping just past First St, almost to Second St, than head back to Madison and Liberty St to start work on water main.
- **Sidewalk Projects-**Did work on S Madison, from Main to Water St and is now completed. There is a little work to be finished and some more repairs.

10. Administrative Staff's Report:

- a. **West Side Park Progress Report (Placeholder)** - Next week the bids close and the hope is that we have bids to go through.

11. WPPI:

- a. **ESM Update**-Has offered the position to a gentleman named Darren and he will start in 2 weeks and will be doing field training right away.
- b. **Board of Director Meeting**
 - Re-issuance of bonds in 2023 with an interest rate of 2.97% will save an average of \$1.68 million per year.
 - Energy market auction – WPPI was able to sell \$2.5 million in un-used load will return funds to members.
 - Will only have to maintain half of current debt service funds freeing \$6.4 million
 - Bonds will be repaid on the same end date as the previous bonds
 - Brian Rhodes of Hartford was elected to the EC
 - Market energy costs are 25.8% higher than they were last year
 - Average increase to members was only 9%
 - Market power costs have a possibility to be double what was expected and budgeted for through November of this year.
 - Honeywell Synergy Net upgrades are coming
 - New transformer loading tool meter peaks and loads on each transformer
- c. **MEUW Conference Updates**
 - New training courses coming (line clearing, locating, new leadership courses)
 - Federal grants for utilities
 - Public Power on Parade (Oct 18th 2023)
 - Safety Award – Gold & News Release

12. Old Business:

- a. Brooks is still working on the uptown flowers.

13. New Business:

- a.

14. Upcoming Meeting Date:

June 28th, 2022 at 5:00 pm

15. Adjourn: Ladick/Morrison 6:12 pm

James Brooks, Committee Chair

Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before meeting commences. If you have any special accessibility issues, please contact Evansville City Hall at 608-882-2266 prior to the scheduled meeting. Thank you.