

City of Oconomowoc
Utility Committee Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2019

Alderman Shaw called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Members Present: Aids. Kowieski and Shaw

Members Absent: Ald. Spiegelberg

Staff Present: Kevin Freber, Scott Osborn, Lucas Caine, Joe Pickart, Ellen Schmidt, John Schuh, John Kelliher, Mark Frye, Laurie Sullivan, Sarah Kitsembel and Tina Wallace

2. Minutes of January 22 and February 19, 2019: Motion by Shaw to approve the January 22 and February 19, 2019 minutes as presented; second by Kowieski. Motion carried 2-0.

3. Consider/recommend Awarding Contract for the Sanitary Sewer Hydraulic Capacity Study: Freber reported the Wastewater Department advertised for bids and received 4. Staff evaluated the proposals and based on the City's OBS process staff recommends the bid of Strand & Associates in the amount of \$74,500. In addition, staff recommends an engineering services contingency of 8% in case they come up with something in the process.

Motion by Kowieski to recommend awarding the contract for the Sanitary Sewer Hydraulic Capacity Study for \$74,500 plus an 8% contingency that can be spent upon Council notification if so needed; second by Shaw. Motion carried 2-0.

4. Discussion/update on Utility Box Art Wraps: Pickart stated that this was brought forward by Alderman Kowieski. He requested a discussion on art wraps on utility boxes. This is something he became aware by traveling and seeing them in other communities throughout Wisconsin. Kowieski stated he has seen these in Milwaukee and Appleton. Pickart stated after consideration there are 22 traffic control boxes that the Utility Department could support wraps being applied to, provided the application is within utility specification. They could not support applying the art wraps to electrical transformers and switches per the National Electric Code. There are warning stickers noting the presence of high voltage and required work clearance, which cannot be obscured. Pickart stated staff has concerns with who controls how much is wrapped, cost, maintenance and who reviews the process. He stated Kelliher is here to talk about some art work in parks and the guidelines if needed. Kitsembel asked if this is something that the members would like to explore further and recommend to Council. If we do this she recommends the Committee putting together a policy of what are our requirements, where they can and can't go, who reviews it for appropriate art, vandalism, what's the life of it and materials. We don't allow anything now. Pickart stated the facilities are owned by the City and staff controls what goes on them. Kowieski explained his vision. He stated it's an art work type application, which is similar to the mural program. It's not a permanent application and if damaged it would be removed. He suggests engaging in talks with the school district for art work or community art by tying it in with the Art Festival. Shaw stated he has concerns that this could cause distracted driving, and if vandalism would increase because more attention would be drawn to them. He stated he would rather see the school do an art work project on them rather than a sticker. Kitsembel stated part of the issue is determining who decides and approves the designs. Pickart stated we need to be careful because we are putting art on a public facility that the rate payers and taxpayers pay for. Shaw asked if the policy comes out of Utilities or Parks. Kitsembel stated the Utility Committee should be putting forth the policy. There is overlap if we apply the art to facilities in the Village Green and in the parks in which the Parks & Recreation Board would have to be involved. Shaw stated he is concerned with people putting up art work on their own. Kowieski suggested that this Committee identify potential areas, materials used and work with tourism regarding the aesthetics. Members will independently visit potential and report at the next meeting for discussion.

5. Review Committee Reports: Utility Billing – Schuh stated the PSC approved the Tariff Application. He stated staff is currently working towards an effective date of March 1st. Staff is still working on details of how the proration process will work. A public hearing was held on February 13th and there was no public comment. **Electric –** Pickart referred to his report included in the packet. He noted staff is having issues with the cold weather, freezing and getting underground things done. Staff is continuing to work on the LED street light change out. Staff has assisted DPW with snow plowing. Lastly, the Armour Road Substation has been fully deenergized. Staff is taking quotes to sell items that are in there. There will be future discussion on what to do with the property. **Water –** Osborn referred to his report included in the packet. He noted letters have been sent out to historic freeze-ups suggesting they run water to avoid lateral freeze up. Staff is continuing research on PVC versus Ductile Iron for water main materials. Lastly, there are two RFP's going out for booster pump replacement at Wells #3 and #7 and staff is working on the Water Tower Maintenance Contract. **Wastewater –** Freber referred to his report included in the packet. He noted that the annual grease trap reporting period ended January 31st and staff is dealing with 15 late customers. Also, he stated he has been in contact with the DNR regarding the WPDES permit and the permit has been held off until at least October.

6. **Staff and Committee Comments:** None.

7. **Closed Session:** Motion by Shaw to convene into Closed Session per Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(e) "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session regarding Village of Lac La Belle Wastewater Treatment Agreement; second by Kowieski. Motion carried 2-0. Closed Session convened at 4:35 PM.

8. **Adjourn:** Motion by Kowieski to adjourn at 4:47 PM; second by Shaw. Motion carried 2-0.

Tina Wallace, Deputy City Clerk