

City of Oconomowoc
Utility Committee Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2020

Alderman Kowieski called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Members Present: Aids. Kowieski, Zapfel and Mulder

Staff Present: Kevin Freber, Scott Osborn, John Schuh, Ellen Schmidt, Joe Pickart and Tina Wallace

2. Minutes of June 23 & July 7, 2020: Motion by Zapfel to approve the June 23 and July 7, 2020 minutes as presented; second by Mulder. Motion carried 3-0.

3a. Discussion Item – Plan Cable Replacement: Pickart stated back in July there were 8 outages that occurred due to age and cable degradation. He displayed a map showing all the areas in the system that have cable that has been injected 15 years or more, or the cable failed. He explained the former process of injecting cable to extend its useful life. Pickart outlined a 5-year plan to replace the cable. He stated Council has put more money into road projects, etc. instead of utility cables. Kowieski stated Council wasn't provided with a utility plan as a point of action. Pickart stated he would recommend replacing the cable with city crews and aligning it with street projects with a contingency, allowing for a contractor to assist should the cable fail at a higher rate than can be managed internally. He stated all residents will be notified of the temporary outages by door hangers, social media, bill insert, etc. Members discussed doing other utility projects at the same time, using more City resources to communicate to the residents, one year to third party and expedite the 5-year plan to a 3-year plan, rate structure and look at long term. Members agreed to look at putting together an RFP.

4. Review Committee Reports: Utility Billing – Schuh referred to his report included in the packet. He noted staff is currently working on the water rate change application for the PSC. The water utility has not increased rates since 2011. The rate charge will also incorporate moving the public fire protection charges from the general fund tax levy to the monthly customer utility bills. After application is filed customers will receive notification with their utility bill. The PSC has extended the disconnection moratorium until November. He noted, the annual tax roll provides us financial protection. All customers with a past due balance as of October 1 and still unpaid as of November 15 will be transferred to the tax roll of the parcel owner. **Electric –** Pickart referred to his report included in the packet. He noted there was an outage at Shorehaven. Staff replaced an old section of cable. Pickart stated there was a power outage by the new PD due to the fence company auguring into the cable. **Water –** Osborn referred to his report included in the packet. He stated the GIS map is up and staff is using it. Staff is getting close to implementing diggers hotline 811. Also, hydrant flushing will start in October. Well #7 pumping station has been offline. Staff is replacing the booster pump. Lastly, staff collected lead & copper samples from 30 homes and staff is waiting for results. **Wastewater Report –** Freber referred to his report included in the packet. He noted the Thackeray Trail extension CIPP work has finished and manhole rehabilitation will start shortly. There was a problem with one manhole having water gushing in. Staff had to do a major repair which costed approximately \$11,000.

5. Staff and Committee Comments: None.

6. Adjourn: Motion made by Zapfel to adjourn at 5:10 pm; second by Mulder. Motion carried 3-0.

Tina Wallace, Deputy City Clerk