

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, May 12th, 2021
4:00 PM

Water and Sewer Commission President Shanley called the Regular Meeting of the City of Platteville Water and Sewer Commission to order on Wednesday, May 12th at 4:02 pm via Zoom.

W/S Commission members present: Ken Kilian (4:15 pm), Isaac Shanley, Mark Meyers, Chris Wilson, Bill Holder, Brian Laufenberg

W/S Commission members excused/absent: Barbara Daus

City Staff present: Public Works Director - Howard Crofoot, Utility Superintendent – Irv Lupee, Administration Director – Nicola Maurer, City Manager – Adam Ruechel, Comptroller – Sheila Horner

City Staff excused:

Public present:

Citizens' Comments –

The Consent Calendar was presented for consideration. **Motion by Holder, second by Laufenberg to approve the Consent Calendar:** April 14, 2021 Minutes, April Financial Report, April Bank Reconciliation and Investments Report, Payment of Bills (4/8/2021 – 5/5/2021), April Water Quality Report. **Motion carried.**

ACTION ITEMS:

None

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

2021 CIP Updates – Crofoot provided an update on the 2021 CIP projects. Dewey Street is in progress. Both water & sewer has been installed from Elm to 4th Street. Commerce to Southwest Road work will start sometime in June after UWP students have left campus for the summer. The blower/orthophosphate aeration system is in progress. Yard work and demo is being done now and the majority of the work will be completed in the next few weeks after the students are gone.

Cost of Iron Removal from the Low Side of the City – Crofoot stated that this was a request from Ken Kilian. Kilian would like to know the cost to put in an iron filtration system in the low side. Crofoot stated that this would cost \$750,000-\$1,000,000 per location for a system that is not necessary because both wells (#6 & #3) are currently under the state and federal levels for iron.

Annual Disconnection/Door Hanger Report – Horner presented the annual disconnection report for 2020 reporting that the PSC stopped municipalities from doing disconnections during the health emergency. Maurer and Horner presented an analysis of the accounts in arrears comparing 2019 vs 2020. The number of accounts increased slightly, but the total amount of arrears has increased drastically. However, the majority of individual accounts had arrears of \$300 or less. This is a manageable amount to be cleared up through Deferred Payment Agreements. Maurer then reported on the timeline created for the resumption of disconnections. Wilson stated concern that the 10-day notice would create a “bottle-neck” effect in the administration due to the high volume of accounts needing to set up payment plans. He recommended creating a public notice to alert residents sooner. Horner reported that a notice will be sent with the next bill, which will give residents 30+ days notice.

Annual Leak Adjustment Report – Horner presented the 2020 leak adjustment report. Crofoot explained the 3 tiers of how leak adjustments are calculated. Residents are allowed to request an adjustment once every 2 years. After that, they would need to request an exception from the W/S Commission.

Utility Finance Update – Horner reported that Jenny Oyen has joined the Finance team as our Accounting Specialist – Utility Billing. Horner also reported that the City of Platteville would have been eligible for a Simplified Rate Case if it had not had the class change of C to A/B. Therefore, she and Oyen will be working on submitting a Conventional Rate Case application very soon.

Motion made by Holder, second by Laufenberg to adjourn. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Horner
Comptroller