

COLUMBUS WATER & LIGHT
COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2021

CWL Commission President Lang called the CWL Commission meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioners present: Lang, Andler, Olson, Mayor Thom, and Schulze. Co-Superintendent Kaltenberg attended via video conference call. Also, present at the meeting was CWL Lead Lineman David Koenig and Co-Superintendent Hammer. Excused Adams

It was reported that the City Clerk, as required by appropriate Wisconsin Statutes, had given proper public notice of the meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved on a motion by Thom, second by Andler. Motion carried.

Visitor's Comments and Utility Communications: Included in the packet were two articles; one from the Beaver Dam Daily Citizen "Free COVID-19 testing in Columbus" and one from AP News "Dangerous Stuff"; Hackers Tried to Poison Water Supply of Florida Town".

The Consent Agenda which consisted of the January 21st CWL Commission Meeting minutes, Monthly Treasurer's Report and the Outage Report, was approved on a motion from Olson, second by Schulze. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cash Disbursements/Accounts Payable Reports: The Commission reviewed the January Cash Disbursements Report. Checks numbered 21951-22003 and 31 wire and ACH transfers, totaled \$791,421.01. The Commission reviewed the Accounts Payable Report and ordered paid 25 requests totaling \$77,594.42. Motion by Olson, second by Andler, to approve paying the 25 requests from the AP Report. Roll call vote, Lang aye, Olson aye, Andler aye, Schulze aye and Mayor Thom aye. Motion carried. Reports were approved and placed on file.

Update on 2021 Projects: Co-Sup't Hammer gave an update on the 2021 projects. Those projects are listed as follows:

- SCADA – Phase 3 electrical portion of project.
- Park Ave Conversion – Apartment complexes and Faith & Tower Dr.
- Circuit 101 – Final conversion
- Hwy 89 / Farnham Project – Conversion of customers off Sub 1.
- LSL Replacement – DNR Grant for LSL replacement.

Review Energy Savings Programs: ESR Stieve included a memo in the Commission packet. The memo had a list of "preapproved" uses for the E3P funds. Motion made by Olson, seconded by Andler to approve the presented E3P Program Funding "preapproved" list with no changes at this time. Motion carried.

Customer-Side Lead Service Line Replacement Program: Co-Sup't Hammer gave an update on the Customer-Side Lead Service Line Replacement Programs He stated as of this date, Columbus Water & Light is tied for third for WDNR LSL Grant Money. CWL had been cleared of any obstacles, such as burial grounds, evasive species, archeological / historical review. Waterway / Wetland review shows some services that are possibly within 300' and erosion control will need to be used. CWL has three plumbers that have agreed to be part of the program. They are Wright Plumbing, Gould Plumbing, and Pertzborn Plumbing. CWL has not yet heard how much money we will be granted.

REPORTS:

Financial Report was given by Co-Sup't Kaltenberg and placed on file.

Mayor Comments: The Mayor shared his appreciation that Water Operator Jacob Tanner is cross training for the Wastewater Department. The Mayor also discussed the Transportation Utility that the City is moving forward with.

Co-Superintendent Kaltenberg's Report:

- “At the City Council meeting on January 5th, Administrator Ellefson explained two different potential City utilities. The storm water utility would be a separate charge on the utility bill and the money would only be eligible for storm water projects. It could help offset any borrowing proposed for storm water projects. It would also require a referendum with a short time frame to notify the public to explain the utility. The deadline to submit wording for a referendum question on the Spring 2021 ballot is January 26. In setting up a transportation utility, the money can be used for any street project with few limitations, and can also offset any borrowing needed for larger street projects. The transportation utility would not require a referendum, but would also be a separate charge on the utility bill and can be used for street projects; and could free up approximately \$95,000 in the 2021 budget designated for slurry and crack sealing and mill & overlay projects. That money could be used for storm water projects. Council agreed to the Transportation Utility only if the money set aside in the 2021 budget for street work would be reallocated, by resolution, for storm water projects.” On February 2nd, Co-Sup't Hammer and Co-Sup't Kaltenberg had a meeting with Matthew Schreiber, City Director of Planning and Development, Kyle Ellefson, City Administrator and Jason Lietha and Ed Maxwell from Ruckert and Mielke to discuss what the City has been discussing and costs that could be associated. They are focusing toward a Transportation Utility and Ruckert and Mielke is putting together a proposal on costs, rate structure and revenues. They are working on an ordinance and are hoping to have everything together to present to the City Council in April for a vote.
- On January 27th, Co-Sup't Kaltenberg received an email from Gillian Lilliehorn from the PSC about the filing deadline being extended from April 1, 2021 to June 1, 2021. Also, with an increased focus on equity and affordability issues, the PSC has added a new section to the 2020 report to collect information about workforce diversity. All utilities, regardless of size and ownership type, must complete Schedule XI and provide information for total employees, management employees, executive leadership employees, and governing board members in various demographic categories, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.
- On February 4th, Co-Sup't Kaltenberg submitted the PSC's Required Disconnection Plan. As part of the ongoing docket (5-UI-120) related to the coronavirus, the Public Service Commission (PSC) is requiring utilities seeking to shut off residential service after April 15, 2021, to file a Disconnection Plan. The PSC Commissioners are expected to discuss utilities' plans and provide guidance related to the current disconnect moratorium at an Open Meeting on Thursday, March 11.
- CWL staff continues to be working on gathering information requested from the get ready list from Ryan Theiler from Baker and Tilly for the Audit that is scheduled for February 15th – February 17th.
- On Tuesday, February 9th, Co-Sup't Kaltenberg received an email from Tin Heinrich, MUEW Executive Director stating that they decided to re-schedule the MEUW Annual Conference from May to August 11-13. MEUW will still be holding its Annual Business Meeting as planned on Friday, May 14 via Zoom
- CWL's crew is unable to progress on the AMI Water Meter Project. There is a lead time of 12 weeks for meter back plates. To date, 2,225 of 2,337 water meters have been converted to AMI.

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Co-Superintendent Hammer's Report

The CWL crew has been working on the following for the past 4 weeks;

Tree trimming

Attended MEUW Lineman Safety School

Open Point – Field Work

Painting piping at WP 1 basement / Paint prep work at WP 2

Assist WWTP as needed.

Zach attended Apprentice School in Green Bay

Trevor attended Transformer Workshop in Waupun

Anticipated work for next 4 weeks;

WP 1 & WP 2 Painting & Maintenance

Open Point – Field / System Inventory

Motion by Olson, second by Thom to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. Motion carried.

****Next Scheduled Meeting – Thursday, March 18th, 6:00 pm at Columbus Water and Light****

Respectfully Submitted,

Brook Andler
CWL Commission Secretary