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Water Utility
Taped and Televised

MEQUON MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY COMMISSION

Thursday, October 28, 2021

6:30 PM

Christine Nuernberg Hall

Minutes

1) Call to Order, Roll Call

Commissioner Wirth called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Present:

Commissioner John Wirth
Commissioner Robert Strzelczyk
Commissioner Dale Mayr
Commissioner Jeffrey Hansher
Commissioner Mark Gierl
Commissioner Brian Parrish
Commissioner Kathleen Schneider
Commissioner Andrew Nerbun
Commissioner Glenn Bushee -- **Absent**

Also present were Assistant City Administrator Schoenemann, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Lundeen, Deputy Director of Utilities Driscoll, Water Utility/City Water LLC Director of Operations Voigt, and Administrative Assistant Deuster.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. October 12, 2021 Minutes

RESULT: **Approved [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Strzelczyk

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Nerbun

AYES: Wirth, Strzelczyk, Hansher, Gierl, Parrish, Schneider, Nerbun

NOT PRESENT: Mayr

3) Action Item

Discussion and Action

a. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022 Mequon Water Utility Budget

b. Motion to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 Mequon Water Utility Budget.

Water Utility/City Water LLC Director of Operations Voigt provided the Commission with an update on a busy year of construction. Some highlights are that the Water Utility connected 6 of the 7 Mequon-Thiensville School District buildings to add them as new customers. Also, the WisDOT I-43 water main relocation projects started and are anticipated to keep the Water Utility busy through winter. Overall, the Water Utility rates remained stable and that is anticipated to continue. Milwaukee Water Works is looking to do a full rate case in 2022, and staff is working with the wholesale water group, that includes the suburbs around Milwaukee that receive water supplied by Milwaukee Water Works, to evaluate any rate increases and shared costs with Milwaukee Water Works.

Commissioner Parrish inquired on the Water Tower improvements and what will the costs associated with that budget item do.

Water Utility/City Water LLC Director of Operations Voigt indicated that the Water Tower needs painting, an inspection for structural integrity, and an evaluation on water level controls. Water Utility/City Water LLC Director of Operations Voigt provided background that the Water Tower was part of the original Mequon Business Park 1 facility that was built in the early 1990s, near the existing Public Works Building and Rockwell Automation, where the Water Tower is currently empty. Once the Water Utility connected with Milwaukee Water Works the pressure and hydraulics changed. As a result, to avoid water becoming stagnant in the Water Tower, the Water Utility turned the valves off and emptied the water tower.

Commissioner Parrish asked if there would be a discussion on if the water tower is needed.

Water Utility/City Water LLC Director of Operations Voigt stated there is a study planned for next year to look at what the current condition of the tower and what would need to be done. The reason for the storage is that if the Water Utility has a main break in front of our supply, then the storage gives the Water Utility time to deal with the problems. It is a 500,000 gallon tower allows time to resolve an emergency. The amount of \$450,000 is a placeholder for a potential future expense.

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Strzelczyk

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Parrish

AYES: Wirth, Strzelczyk, Mayr, Hansher, Gierl, Parrish, Schneider, Nerbun
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c. Authorization of 2022 Water Meter Purchase

RESULT: **Approved [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Schneider

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Nerbun

AYES: Wirth, Strzelczyk, Mayr, Hansher, Gierl, Parrish, Schneider, Nerbun
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d. Water Connection Policy

Staff presented to the Commissioners several policy questions to discuss how existing procedures and Utility documents may be modified regarding new connections to the Water Utility. The Commissioners discussed the following questions and provided input and guidance to staff.

1. Which properties/developments should be required to connect?

The Commissioners discussed and concurred that the Water Utility continue to require connection for new developments (such as a new subdivision and any new infill projects) of all properties within a designated boundary. In addition, the Commissioners support the idea that when someone requests permission to connect a property, then an outline of the connection process be made available, whether the site is inside or outside of the existing utility service area. The Commissioners also generally agreed that properties within the sanitary sewer service area require connection when new development is proposed, such as a new subdivision and/or infill project (commercial/mixed use). Several considerations were discussed, such as identifying additional parameters on when connection is required, along with considerations given to the Ulao Creek Neighborhood and planning efforts specific to this area (formerly referred to as the East Growth Area).

2. How do we address properties that are required to connect, but don't want to?

The Commission clarified that connection to the Water Utility is voluntary for existing homeowners. An example of a home being re-constructed on site was discussed and put that in contrast to an infill project or subdivision that is required to connect. The Commission agreed that staff should generate and provide policy language establishing the parameters for a request, and outline requirements that the Water Utility Commission will use in its determination.

Policy Items 3,4,5.

The Commission recommended that staff return with examples of deferrals and parameters for when properties are required to connect, and parameters for when a deferral or exemption would be considered.

4) Adjourn

a. Motion to Adjourn at 7:22 PM.

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Commissioner Gierl

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Parrish

AYES: Wirth, Strzelczyk, Mayr, Hansher, Gierl, Parrish, Schneider, Nerbun
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Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Deuster

Administrative Assistant