

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 17, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

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Location: Edmund T. Malinowski Board Room
Stoughton Utilities Administration Office
600 South Fourth Street
Stoughton, Wisconsin, 53589

Members Present: Citizen Member Kym Ackerman, Citizen Member David Erdman (Chair), Alderperson Ben Heili, Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Alderperson Greg Jenson, Citizen Member John Kallas, Mayor Tim Swadley (Vice-Chair)

Excused: None

Absent: None

Others Present: Emily Bahr, Stoughton Director of Finance & Comptroller Jamin Friedl, Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops, WPPI Energy Vice President of Energy Services Jake Oelke, Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss

Call to Order: Utilities Committee Chairperson David Erdman called the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Utilities Committee Consent Agenda: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Committee consent agenda items. Discussion followed.

Motion by Jenson, the motion seconded by Hirsch, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Draft Minutes of the May 20, 2019 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
- b. Stoughton Utilities May Payments Due List Report
- c. Stoughton Utilities April Financial Summary
- d. Stoughton Utilities April Statistical Report
- e. Stoughton Utilities May Activities Report
- f. Communications

The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Status of the Utilities Committee recommendation(s) to the Stoughton Common Council: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the following items from the Stoughton Utilities Committee that were approved and/or placed on file by the Stoughton Common Council:

Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the April 15, 2019 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
2. Stoughton Utilities April Payments Due List Report
3. Stoughton Utilities March Financial Summary
4. Stoughton Utilities March Statistical Report

Business:

1. Stoughton Utilities 2018 Audit Reports and Management Letter

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Presentation by WPPI Energy: The Future of the Electric Utility Industry: Stoughton Utilities Staff introduced Mr. Jake Oelke, P.E., Vice President of Energy Services at WPPI Energy. Mr. Oelke made a presentation titled *The Power of Great Places* that discussed the future of the electric utility industry to the committee. Numerous topics were included and discussed: a background of WPPI Energy and joint-action partnerships, the current and planned WPPI Energy power supply portfolio, energy sustainability and renewable energy projects, distributed generation strategies, emerging technologies, rate impacts and rate tariffs under consideration, and more. Discussion followed.

Wastewater 2018 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR): Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the 2017 CMAR. Annual submittal of an electronic CMAR form (eCMAR) is required to be completed no later than June 30. Discussion followed.

Motion by Hirsch, the motion seconded by Heili, to approve the 2018 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report and recommend the approval and adoption of the corresponding resolution to the Stoughton Common Council on June 25, 2019. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Proposed Ordinance Change to Allow Fences in Easements: Stoughton Utilities staff presented a proposed ordinance change to City of Stoughton Ordinance 78-718 related to the placement of fencing in utility easements. This change would remove current prohibition of fencing in utility easements, and is currently under consideration by the City of Stoughton Planning Commission.

Staff informed the committee that Stoughton Utilities' preference is to maintain the ordinance as it is currently written. Staff informed the committee of potential issues that could result from the proposed ordinance change, including lack of approval standardization, limitation of utility staff to quickly and safely access our infrastructure, potential slowed emergency storm response, and more. Staff also discussed what Stoughton Utilities would do to address those concerns should the ordinance be modified as proposed. Discussion followed.

Several committee members expressed concern about the impacts any ordinance modifications would have on Utility operations and emergency system restoration, access restrictions, potential liabilities and negative customer relations that could occur should a fence in an easement be damaged, the potential for additional structures being built within the fenced easement, and a variety of other concerns. Jensen expressed interest in removing this topic from the upcoming City Council meeting to allow it to be further discussed.

May 25 Storm Event and Stoughton Utilities Emergency Response: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the electrical outages experienced during the May 25, 2019 storm event, including outage causes, utility response, and lessons learned. Discussion followed.

Utilities Director's Report: The First 100 Days: Stoughton Utilities Director Jill M. Weiss, P.E. presented and discussed her report that reviewed her first 100 days on the job at Stoughton Utilities, and provided a 'State of Stoughton Utilities' to the committee. Discussion followed. Jensen requested that this report be presented to the Common Council at a future meeting.

Invitation to Attend a WPPI Energy Executive Committee Meeting: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed an upcoming meeting of the WPPI Energy Executive Committee that is scheduled to be held in Stoughton on Thursday, June 27, 2019. An invitation was extended to members of the Stoughton Utilities Committee and Common Council to attend the Executive Committee meeting, and other associated opportunities.

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to be held following the meeting. Staff requested members RSVP prior to June 21 so that the appropriate public notice can be posted as required by law if a quorum will be present. Discussion followed.

Stoughton Utilities Facility Tours Schedule: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed a proposed schedule for the upcoming committee meetings when tours of Stoughton Utilities facilities will be provided to committee members. The tentative schedule includes tours in July, August, and September immediately following the regularly scheduled committee meeting. Discussion followed.

Utilities Committee Future Agenda Items: Staff informed the committee that upcoming meeting topics include an education presentation on the utility rate design process, and the resumption of scheduled tours of various utility facilities as weather permits. Committee members requested a continuation of the discussion regarding the proposed ordinance change allowing fencing in utility easements, and additional information regarding possible sanitary sewer collection system repair and/or replacement on West Main Street as it becomes available. Discussion followed.

Adjournment: Motion by Jenson, the motion seconded by Hirsch, to adjourn the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting at 7:34 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Respectfully submitted

Brian R. Hoops

Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director