

At 6:00 on April 14, 2014 the regular meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission was called to order by chair Newton Standridge. Members present at roll call: Newton Standridge, Ric Graves, and Tim Kalvig. Dan Merriman arrived before the Oath of Office. Also present Jaki Livingston, Doug Pierce, Tim Hoskins and Jo Snyder.

Motion by Kalvig & seconded by Graves to approve Agenda of the April 14, 2014 meeting. 3-0.
Motion by Graves & seconded by Merriman to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2014 meeting. 3-0.

Oath of Office administered to Doug Pierce by Newton Standridge

Old Business:

Summer Water Usage - Hoskins reported that Des Moines Water Works is implementing a water shortage plan and they are looking for wholesale customers to mirror it. It is a four-stage plan and almost all of it is aimed at irrigation. In stage 1, they look for a voluntary 25% in turf irrigation.

Stage 2 is a voluntary fifty percent reduction in outdoor water use. In both of these stages, there is no enforcement. In Stage 3, turf irrigation is prohibited and automatic irrigation is prohibited. There is enforcement in this stage. Violators will be notified and have 48 hours to cease using irrigation. If not, the water service will be suspended. Violation will be used for unauthorized use of water and fines can be levied. Stage 4 is water rationing. All water use beyond monthly water ration, will be billed at four times the rate otherwise applicable to the customer. This affects heavy water users, like businesses such as Capital City Fruit of Loffredo. Hoskins said Norwalk is using the same methodology that DMWW uses. Last year we were at a point where we were experiencing peak demand and there were times when we could not fill the tower because everything was going right to distribution. The overall demand in the system during a situation like this is greater than what DMWW can supply.

Commercial Irrigation Rates - Hoskins said that we have in our code language that is somewhat different from what we have been doing in actuality. Current code commercial irrigation consumption is billed at a flat rate when consumption reach 550,000 gallon. Hoskins said we strike that language out of the code and bill it at the same rate as other water. It is treated water.

Discussion on bulk water tank charges, will check into recalibrating or purchasing new coin machine.

Capital Projects

NCIS -Hoskins reported that the bids for the Norwalk Community Infrastructure Projects came back over budgeted. Conversations with contractors uncovered that there was a lot of residual work from last year that contractors were still finishing. The City is planning to rebid the project in June or late summer.

Industrial Park Regional Retention - Hoskins said the City is working with Veenstra & Kimm, who has provided us with language that allows us to put in regional storm water retention and treat it similar to a sewer district. We will pattern our ordinance off of West Des Moines. In this case, we are talking about two basins, to serve the entire area.

Meter Update - Hoskins said we are working on having the larger meters changed out. Meters need to be changed out because we lose revenue as the meters age, they lose their accuracy.

New Business:

Solid Waste Rates - Oliver reported, the City takes in less money than it spends in garbage and garbage rates from the contractor are increasing. The City is also expecting an increase in recycling rate. Staff is recommending an ordinance that adjusts the extra tote charge to \$7 per month and adjusts monthly rates by \$0.50 on July 1, 2014 and \$0.50 on July 1, 2015. There has not been a garbage adjustment in eight years.

Warrior Run Sewer - Hoskins said this is a new development where Countryside Golf Course was. They are proposing a five-stage development. Staff is working with the engineers to develop a sanitary sewer connection district. Calculations are complete to size it and capacity is adequate of the southeast trunk line. Engineers are working on developing the easements and we will start negotiating. They want to start breaking ground very quickly.

Emergency Notification Protocol - The City has decided to use Code Red for emergency notification. Information will be on our Website, in Norwalk Living and in the newspaper.

Storm Drain Report – Distributed the Storm Drain Report and Hoskins reported a couple of issues with sump pumps in certain sections of town that run constantly and they intend to address them when the weather calms down and cooperates.
Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Next Meeting October 13, 2014

Newton Standridge

Jo Snyder