



Norwalk Utility Advisory Commission
November 9, 2015 6:00 pm
Norwalk City Hall

At 6:07 on November 9, 2015 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, Tim Kalvig and Aaron Uhl. Dan Merriman present at 6:08. Also present Marketa Oliver, Tim Hoskins, and Jo Snyder.

Standridge swore in Aaron Uhl as member of the Utility Advisory Commission.

Motion by Graves & seconded by Kalvig to **approve Agenda** of the November 9, 2015 meeting. 4-0

A motion was made by Kalvig & seconded by Graves to approve the **minutes of the July 13, 2015** meeting. 4-0.

Old Business:

NCIS –Hoskins reported that the Holly Project is complete. Wakonda paving is nearing completion expecting the paving to be complete tomorrow. He is expecting the project to be complete around Thanksgiving. Deadline was November 1st.

Potential Water Projects – Hoskins reported that the City had bid Founders' District Water Main project, they are planning on proceeding quickly. The area involved is School Avenue & Pine Avenue between Main Street & Center Street; Center Street between School & Elm Avenue; Elm Avenue between Cherry Street & Center Street. The engineer estimated cost \$550,000 and low bid of \$482,884 went to Jackson Creek Enterprises. The completion date is December 31st.

Capital Projects can be found on line in the Comprehensive Plan.

Storm Drain Report- Shared report from Storm Water Inspector: 492 storm water inspections so far this year and several storm intakes have been cleaned or rebuilt. Marketa reported an additional Building Inspector has been hired who will do more of the storm water activities and hopefully the City can be more proactive on storm water. Hoskins reported that both Holly & Wakonda Drive Projects have had storm sewer installed.

Planning and Zoning – Hoskins reported on upcoming plats: Silverado Estates Plat 2 with 31 lots; Timber View has 145 Lots; Village on the Ridge 34 lots; they have started on Estates on the Ridge PI2 with 38 lots; Orchard View PI 3 has 31 lots; Rolling Greens PI 5 has 114 lots; Legacy Plat 19 has 89 lots; Cort Landing has 31 lots. There was discussion on the need for a second water source.

New Business:

Water Rates-

Hoskins reported Des Moines Water Works is increasing the water rate by 10%, will be looking at the current rate structure to determine if an increase in our rates is needed.

Oliver reported that she has been fielding calls from apartment complexes about the water availability charges. She would like to know if the Commission would like to cap the amount a property pays. Each unit in the apartment building is charged an availability charge. Standridge asked how many units the largest complex had

and Snyder said approximately 36 units per building. Hoskins said we talk about the water projects that we need to move forward with and these projects are a big part of the water availability charge. When you take a large apartment building, you are looking at a larger size main that is needed and the costs associated with that, additional fire protection needs with more hydrants and sprinkler systems, etc. and it is not an unreasonable charge. It has been too low in the past so there is a little bit of shock when it was raised to the point where it should be. The Commission did not see the need to change the availability charge or to cap it based on the number of units per property.

Included in the packet is a summary of the cost service study from Des Moines Water Works.

Standridge adjourned meeting at 7:00 pm

Next Meeting January 11

Newton Standridge

Jo Snyder