

## **MINUTES OF PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD MEETING - 08/28/23**

**Date and time:** 08/28/23 01:00 p.m.

**Present:** John Bell, Jacque Cowherd, Richard or Frances Vaughn, Charles Williams, Utilities Superintendent Darrell Dunlap, CFO Dustin Dougherty, Director of Administration Courtney Doyle, Council Liaison Lauren Nelson, Mayor Steve Myers, Deputy Clerk Doris Stone, and City Clerk Kathie Ratliff.

**Absent:** Whit McCoskrie

**Location:** Executive Conference Room, City Hall

**Projects/Tags:** public utility board

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER.**

John Bell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### **2. ROLL CALL.**

John Bell asked those in attendance to introduce themselves, which satisfied the roll call. Four members present, one member absent (McCoskrie).

#### **3. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS.**

There were none.

#### **4. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 24, 2023 MINUTES.**

Motion was made by Jacque Cowherd and Seconded by Charles Williams to approve the July 24, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion carried with four members voting in favor, one member absent (McCoskrie).

#### **5. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2023.**

The Utility Financial Report as of July 31, 2023, was presented to the Board for review and discussion. Dustin Dougherty, Chief Financial Officer, noted that he had no specific issues about this month's report. Following that, there was a discussion about fund allocation.

Motion was made by Charles Williams and Seconded by Richard Vaughn to accept the Financial Report as of July 31, 2023, as presented. Motion carried with four members voting in favor, one member absent (McCoskrie).

#### **6. SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION:**

##### *A. Sikeston Update*

Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities, provided a brief report to the Board on the newly signed contract with Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and the construction of the substation. He stated that he will provide an update on the August findings.

##### *B. Water Tank Update*

Mr. Dunlap stated that the water tank renovation is nearly finished. He shared that when the rope curtain drops, sandblasting and painting will be the only project left. He expects it to be completed by October. Dunlap said that city personnel assisted when possible. The project, according to Director of Administration Doyle, has gone over budget.

### C. DNR Update

Dunlap, the Superintendent of Utilities, stated that Public Comment has not yet opened and that the project is presently on hold. Mr. Vaughn questioned regarding the imposition of fines. Dunlap said no fines have been issued and that we are working on old permits at this time.

### D. Utility Reserve Policy

A great deal of discussion ensued regarding the utility reserve policy. Superintendent Dunlap reviewed the Capital Reserve Project findings and described the associated funds and depreciations. Mr. Dunlap stated that he looked at cities of similar size and concluded that our consumption rates were comparable.

The Board discussed the manner of raising utility rates in order to build reserve funds to a sustainable level and alternately support infrastructure projects. Dunlap indicated that no one raised prices during COVID, so the city is expecting to see reports from companies with rate hikes next year.

Dunlap shared "water rates have not been raised in the city in over 20 years and, since COVID, we haven't done many improvements on our capital plan."

Director of Administration Doyle advised the Board that the city's capital improvements sales tax is due to expire in 2024. She and Superintendent Dunlap advised that the City place it on the April 2024 ballot as it provided funds for several substantial improvements. Lauren Nelson, Council Liaison, noted that this is a continuance of the tax, not a new one. Director Doyle stated that they will have more information related to this matter at the next meeting.

### **7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED).**

No session required.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion was made by Richard Vaugh and Seconded by Charles Williams to adjourn at 1:56 p.m. Motion carried with four members in favor, one absent (McCoskrie).