

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JEFFERSON UTILITIES COMMISSION, HELD JULY 12, 2021

On call of the roll, commissioners present were: Oppermann, Brandel, Adams, Bristol, Ganser, and Neils. Also present were: Utility Manager Adler, Office Manager Statz, and City Attorney Rogers. Absent was: Comm. Pieters. The meeting began at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Utility Manager Adler explained that Jefferson Utilities has applied to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for a change in rate for the renewable energy program. The current price is \$3.00 per block. We are asking that it be reduced to \$2.00 per block. A notice of investigation issued by the PSC has been included in your packet for informational purposes.

Utility Manager Adler shared that MEUW is creating a commercial to be aired on PBS this fall. The camera crew visited Jefferson to get shots of staff working in the yard, and of the solar farm.

MINUTES

It was moved by Comm. Brandel and seconded by Comm. Neils to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote. Comm. Ganser and Comm. Bristol abstained due to their absence.

EXPENDITURES

It was moved by Comm. Oppermann and seconded by Comm. Bristol to approve the payment of June 2021 bills totaling \$1,958,494.81. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams – Aye, Ganser – Aye, Bristol – Aye)

REPLACE PUERNER STREET BRIDGE LIGHTS FOR \$18,887.85 – ENTERPRISE LIGHTING

Utility Manager Adler explained some of the street lights on the Puerner Street Bridge are corroding, thus are failing and have become a safety concern. Some of the street lights have fallen into the river. It is his suggestion that we replace all of the poles on the bridge. He received three bids. Enterprise lighting came in with the lowest price. The quoted poles are rated for 90 mph winds and are made of aluminum alloy. In addition, they will fit the brackets already installed.

Comm. Ganser asked if there are any other poles in town we are having issues with.

Utility Manager Adler stated some poles are cracking, but are still holding up. So far, these are the only poles that are experiencing such failures.

Comm. Bristol questioned the practice of the utility paying to replace street lights.

Utility Manager Adler explained it is the city's responsibility to purchase the initial street light. From there, the electric utility takes over ownership of the street lights. It is the utility's responsibility to maintain and replace them. The city is billed a monthly fee per street light that covers those costs.

Utility Manager Adler explained there is a spring loaded banner bracket that we can purchase as well. He is going to try them out to see how it works. If they work well, he would like to purchase the brackets for other poles.

Comm. Oppermann questioned who is responsible to replace the stop 'n go lights.

Utility Manager Adler explained the utility used to replace them, but now that the city has a bucket truck, they have taken over the responsibility.

Comm. Oppermann stated he would like the city to have an inventory on hand of those poles.

It was moved by Comm. Oppermann and seconded by Comm. Ganser to approve replacement and purchase of the Puerner Street Bridge street lights for \$18,887.85 from Enterprise Lighting. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams – Aye, Ganser – Aye, Bristol – Aye)

It was moved by Comm. Brandel and seconded by Comm. Ganser to adjourn to closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) to consider compensation of the Utility Manager. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams – Aye, Ganser – Aye, Bristol - Aye)

It was moved by Comm. Bristol and seconded by Comm. Neils to reconvene to open session. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams – Aye, Ganser – Aye, Bristol - Aye)

It was moved by Comm. Brandel and seconded by Comm. Ganser to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.