

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JEFFERSON UTILITIES COMMISSION, HELD JUNE 14, 2021

On call of the roll, commissioners present were: Oppermann, Brandel, Adams and Neils. Also present were: Utility Manager Adler, Office Manager Statz, City Attorney Rogers, WPPI Senior VP of Services and Business Strategy Tom Paque, WPPI Energy Services Representative Greg Hoffmann, Forster Electrical Engineering Consultants Bruce Beth and Eric Anton. Absent were: Bristol, Ganser and Pieters. The meeting began at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

MINUTES

It was moved by Comm. Brandel and seconded by Comm. Neils to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2021 meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote.

EXPENDITURES

It was moved by Comm. Brandel and seconded by Comm. Oppermann to approve the payment of May 2021 bills totaling \$1,229,711.75. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams - Aye)

WPPI PRESENTATION

WPPI Senior VP of Services and Business Strategy Tom Paque provided the commission with an update on WPPI operations. He explained the average of the last five-year power costs have remained flat. Mr. Paque reviewed the programs WPPI offered its members during COVID; rate relief, community recharge program and utility loans.

Mr. Paque stated WPPI is focused on the future. Our power portfolio is diversified, which stabilized rates for customers in February 2021 when a part of the country was experiencing large price hikes. Mr. Paque stated WPPI is working to reduce carbon emissions 45% by 2025. In addition, WPPI is thinking about the future of electric cars and how they can be a part of that change.

Mr. Paque stated Jefferson is doing a good job communicating with its customers even with the small staff size.

Lastly, Mr. Paque reiterated that member involvement is critical to the future of WPPI. He informed the commission of future events, like the APPA Legislative Rally in Washington D.C. He stressed that member involvement makes a huge difference in Washington D.C.

Comm. Adams asked if WPPI monitored the continued cyber-attacks industries are facing.

Mr. Paque stated it is on their radar and they monitor such events to make sure they are ahead of the curve.

RIVERSIDE ALLEY UPDATE – FORSTER ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Forster Electrical Engineering President Bruce Beth explained the changes that will be made to the electric distribution system.

Forster Electrical Engineering Consultant Eric Anton explained they had been working with Utility Manager Adler and the carriers to bury the lines.

Comm. Adams asked if the lines will be buried underground.

Mr. Beth and Mr. Anton stated they would be and there is an open house on Wednesday, June 16 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for those that live and work in the area. The general public could attend if they wanted, as well.

Utility Manager Adler stated they are trying to inconvenience the tenants as little as possible. He stated the plan was to divide up the project into sections, but AT&T wants their wires off the poles this year. Because of this, they are moving up the project.

Comm. Adams asked if the income from pole contacts will go away.

Utility Manager Adler stated the charges for those poles would go away.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – J&R UNDERGROUND OPEN TRENCHING AND DIRECTIONAL BORING – RIVERSIDE ALLEY PROJECT

Mr. Anton stated there was one bid received for the boring and open trenching. He explained the contractor does a lot of municipal work and the prices are in line with what they are seeing this year. While the material prices are volatile, the labor cost is appropriate.

It was moved by Comm. Oppermann and seconded by Comm. Neils to approve J & R Underground to perform open trenching in the amount of \$162,380.00 and directional boring in the amount of \$116,591.25 for the Riverside Alley project. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams - Aye)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – JEFFERSON CURRENT ELECTRIC – RIVERSIDE ALLEY PROJECT

Utility Manager Adler stated it was necessary to hire a contractor to modify the inside wiring, as our crews cannot perform that work.

Mr. Anton stated the bid for this work was done as hourly rates to be fair to the contractor and the utility. He explained the proposed contractor was also used for work in Firehouse Alley.

City Attorney Rogers asked if there has been any issue getting cooperation from the owners.

Utility Manager Adler stated owners have been very accommodating so far.

It was moved by Comm. Oppermann and seconded by Comm. Brandel to approve Jefferson Current Electric to perform electrician work at a rate of \$88.00/hour for Journeymen and \$60.00/hour for Apprentices and a 15% markup on materials for the Riverside Alley project. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams - Aye)

It was moved by Comm. Neils and seconded by Comm. Brandel to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.