

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JEFFERSON UTILITIES COMMISSION, HELD AUGUST 9, 2021

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

MINUTES

It was moved by Comm. Pieters and seconded by Comm. Neils to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2021 and July 26, 2021 meetings. Motion carried on a voice vote. Comm. Brandel and Comm. Bristol abstained from the July 26, 2021 meetings due to their absence.

EXPENDITURES

It was moved by Comm. Brandel and seconded by Comm. Ganser to approve the payment of July 2021 bills totaling \$1,506,470.13. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams – Aye, Ganser – Aye, Bristol – Aye, Pieters - Aye)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – OFFICE PART-TIME HELP

Office Manager Statz explained the office's current COOP student graduated from high school this year and is taking a year off from school. Ms. Statz would like to keep her on in the office for the next year. This will provide the office with some stability, with not having to train a new staff member. The plan will be to hire a COOP student that is a junior in high school next summer to continue to get two years of consistency in the office.

It was moved by Comm. Oppermann and seconded by Comm. Brandel to approve the part-time hire of Morgan Schroedl at a rate of \$12.00 per hour, not to exceed 1,040 hours in a year. On call of the roll, motion carried. (Neils – Aye, Oppermann – Aye, Brandel – Aye, Adams – Aye, Ganser – Aye, Bristol – Aye, Pieters - Aye)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – 2022 BUDGET – CAPITAL PROJECTS

Utility Manager Adler reviewed the proposed projects for 2022. He explained a lot of the capital costs will go towards the Riverside Alley project. He stated the project has pushed up a little bit in 2021 because AT&T wants to get their lines off of our poles yet this year.

Utility Manager Adler stated he is proposing we put aside \$100,000 in next year's budget for more AMI meters. He stated the water utility is looking at going full AMI next year and he questioned if the electric utility should do the same. He explained the utility would need to borrow money to make that happen.

Comm. Oppermann stated there was a strong likelihood that the water utility will move to AMI in 2022.

Utility Manager Adler continued to say that if the utility would do a borrowing for AMI meters in 2022, he would also like to include funds to install in smart reclosures on our distribution system to ensure more reliability for our customers.

Comm. Oppermann stated he was in favor of moving the electric utility into the 21st century.

Comm. Bristol stated we are not tapping into our system's full potential without smart reclosures.

Comm. Neils questioned how the proposed 2022 capital projects compare to our normal spending in prior years.

Utility Manager Adler stated the spending levels overall are the same as in 2021.

Comm. Oppermann questioned how much electricity is being saved by changing the street lights over to LED bulb.

Utility Manager Adler stated it was now standard practice to replace burnt out bulbs with LED bulbs.

Comm. Oppermann stated he would like to quantify the savings to be able to tell citizens.

Office Manager Statz stated City Engineer Pinnow receives a monthly spreadsheet showing him the usage on each electric meter. She stated he would be able see the reduction in kWh in those spreadsheets.

It was moved by Comm. Pieters and seconded by Comm. Neils 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, Pieters - Aye)

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

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – UTILITY MANAGER COMPENSATION

Comm. Brandel stated the Utility Manager's pay structure would remain the same at this time, with no reduction in pay.

Comm. Oppermann stated the commission appreciated the Utility Manager's work for the electric utility.

Comm. Brandel asked if the Utility Manager was paid hourly or as a salary.

Utility Manager Adler stated he was paid hourly. He was also in the on-call rotation and was paid 1 ½ times his hourly wage for overtime.

Comm. Ganser asked how on-call time worked and if two guys were needed for each call-in.

Utility Manager Adler stated staff was on-call for one week and received 18 hours of straight time for being available. In addition, they were paid 1 ½ times their hourly rate for call-ins. He stated the crews can work independently at times, but there are limitations to that work. Most of the time, two crew members are needed for calls.

It was moved by Comm. Brandel and seconded by Comm. Ganser to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.