



AGENDA
Washington Electric Utilities Advisory Board
JUNE 19, 2019
6:00 PM

Call to Order

Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2019 (**page 2**)

Approval/Amendments to the Agenda

- I. Comments from the Public:
- II. Feedback from the Council:
- III. Correspondence and Special Reports:
- IV. Old Business:
 - A. Update – Futura Systems, Inc. (GIS)
 - B. Update – Survalent Technologies (OMS)
 - C. Update – Utility Electrical Consultants/Long Range Plan
 - D. Update – Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)
 - E. Update – Slatestone Substation Project
 - F. Update – Mandatory Load Management
- V. New Business:
 - A. Discussion – Pole Attachment Agreement
 - B. Discussion – Load Management Credit Schedule
 - C. Discussion – Load Management Savings
- VI. Any other items from the City Manager or his designee:
 - A. None –
- VII. Any other items from the Chair or other members of the Board:
 - B. None –
- VIII. Adjournment:

The Washington Electric Advisory Board met on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers in the Municipal Building. Present were: Stewart Rumley, Chair; Pat Griffin, Vice-chair; Board members: Vann Knight, Nicholas McKinley and John Taylor. Board member absent and unexcused: Rudy Burns. Washington Park seat remains vacant.

Also, present were: Council Liaison, Roland Wyman; Councilman, Doug Mercer; Interim Electric Director; Alston Tankard; City Manager, Jonathan Russell; Electric Support Superintendent, Shane Lewis; ElectriCities representative Jason Thigpen; and WEUAB Secretary, Antromeed Johnson. There was one attendee from the public in attendance, Mr. Gerald Seighman.

Chairman Rumley called the meeting to order and the Board took a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval by consensus of the board with one change. "Mr. Thigpen reminded the Board that Utility Electrical Consultants, PC (UEC) is the qualified engineering firm selected by Council." was changed to ".....is the qualified engineering firm selected by staff and will be presented to Council for approval."

APPROVAL/AMMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: NONE

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Gerald Seighman stated that his electricity is still flowing, his A/C is working fine, and praised the Electric Department for a job well done.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COUNCIL: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

Power Point Presentation updating the Board on GIS, OMS, Long Range Plan, AMI and Slatestone Substation projects

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE – GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM/OUTAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM/UEC-LONG RANGE PLAN/AMI & SLATESTONE SUBSTATION STATUS REPORTS

Mr. Tankard introduced a Power Point Presentation to the Board and explained it would provide a recap on where the Electric Department stands on ongoing projects. For the GIS project update Mr. Tankard advised the Board that McLean Engineering has completed their project survey and database work. McLean is now in the process of cleaning up some of the data layers inside of the GIS to make for a better integration with the OMS and staking software, Futura. The Futura contract is currently being reviewed by the City's attorney. Once the attorney review has been completed the contract will be presented to the City Manager for signature. In the meantime, Futura has began to integrate the GIS database into the Futura software platform. Mr. Tankard advised that to date there are 3,256 street lights and 14,058 poles on the system. Mr. Mercer asked if this information could be made available to the Board, along with the miles of transmission and distribution wires that exist on the system. There are approximately 370 miles of distribution wire and approximately 67.45 miles of transmission wire currently.

For the OMS update, Mr. Tankard advised that Survalent is working diligently now and has moved forward with what they have been provided to date. Since the last Advisory Board Meeting both the set up of server environments and GIS file integration with the OMS has started. Mr. Tankard advised that the project faced a delay of a couple weeks on the GIS asset information. The City of Washington's IT Support staff has begun the process of setting up the necessary servers and networks needed. The estimated timeline for completion and implementation is October 2019 and the project seems to be on schedule.

Mr. Tankard provided an update on the Long Range Plan. Mr. Tankard advised the Board that the Electric Department staff issued a Request for Qualification in January pursuant to GS 143-64.31 (Procurement of Architectural, Engineering and Surveying Services). The staff has completed the "bidding" phase. Currently, the staff is working on the "negotiation" phase. As a part of the negotiation phase, the Staff has completely responded to UEC's request for data on long range forecast information, wholesale billing data, and circuit loading data. Also, UEC has submitted a proposal and staff is working with UEC on scope and fees. Mr. Tankard advised that the staff is hoping to get the fees down but is still in the procurement process. Chairman Rumley asked if the budget for the Long Range Plan is \$40,000 and Mr. Tankard confirmed. Mr. Rumley then asked what is the staff's recourse if they're unable to get the cost down to the amount budgeted. Mr. Tankard explained that if the City wants to move forward with this study then funds would have to be reallocated to allow for funding. Mr. Thigpen added that if negotiations with UEC fail then the statute allows for the City to go to the next qualified bidder. The statute dictates that negotiations cannot be had with more than one firm at a time.

Mr. Tankard provided an update on AMI. Mr. Tankard advised that Night Hawk met with the Electric Department staff and Mr. Thigpen to discuss their concept for cutoffs, prepaids, and customer portals. AMI can also be used for Load Management. ElectriCities has been contacted to help assist with the AMI evaluation. ElectriCities will assist the City with a Return on Investment analysis. ElectriCities will facilitate an AMI demo with NextGrid on Thursday, May 2, 2019. Mr. Thigpen advised that although ElectriCities works closely with NextGrid they don't push the NextGrid on to its members. The Board requested a calendar invite or email reminder to attend the NextGrid demo.

Mr. Tankard updated the Board on the Slatestone Substation rebuild project. The staff is awaiting the center line drawings. The center line drawings are expected to be received the week of April 22nd. Once the center line drawings are received, they will be submitted to the engineering consultants and is expected to be presented to the engineering firm by April 25, 2019. The center line drawings are needed to complete the design of the transformer pads, oil containment system, control house and other key components at the substation. Mr. Tankard advised that things are on schedule for the project. If the project stays on track the project should be complete Spring 2020. Discussion on all projects to be continued.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION – ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT WAGES/SALARIES

Mr. Russell advised the Board that he and Mr. Tankard have discussed this. Mr. Russell wanted to make the Board aware that his office is currently reviewing the wages and salaries for the department. Some of the turnover in the department has been contributed to higher salaries being offered by neighboring cities. Therefore,

an internal review is being conducted along with the salary study that was completed a year or two ago. Councilman Wyman asked if Mr. Russell knew when he'd reach a conclusion and recommendations. Mr. Russell advised that Human Resources is gathering the data. Once all of the data is obtained it will be compiled into a report to be reviewed. Councilman Mercer advised that based on studies completed by the League of Municipalities, the City's salaries are not the lowest. Mr. Mercer offered to provide the Board with that documentation for review. Mr. Tankard advised that his main concern is that the investment in to a new employee in getting them dressed in uniform and trained is all for nothing if they leave for neighboring cities for more money. Mr. Rumley advised that the Board is available to assist if the need arises. Discussion to be continued.

DISCUSSION – BOARD MEMBER REAPPOINTMENTS

Mrs. Johnson advised that there are a few board members whose appointments are scheduled to expire at the end of this term, June 30, 2019. Board members Mr. Knight, Mr. McKinley, and Mr. Burns along with Chairman Rumley are all up for reappointment. An application was presented to each person to complete and return if there is an interest in being reappointed. Chairman Rumley accepted Mr. Burns application in his absence.

ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE: NONE

ANY OTHER ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Mr. Rumley advised that since the GIS staking software is being implemented it is time to review the pole attachment ordinance. Mr. Rumley asked if there is a City Ordinance that exists that addresses pole attachments and what the fees are? If so, can one be provided to be used as a guideline? Mr. Thigpen advised that the Electricities attorney, Mr. Barnes, may have developed a guidance document. Mr. Thigpen asked for some time to research this and follow up with the Board at a later time. Mr. Rumley stated that it would be nice if the City could confer with a city that already has an up to date pole attachment schedule that fits within the guidelines of the latest legislation. Mr. Mercer advised that there is a Power Agency meeting soon and he will speak with the attorney to see if he can find 2 to 3 towns that has this ordinance in use already.

Mr. Rumley requested a future demonstration for the Board on surge suppressors to inform the Board on what surge suppressors are and what they do.

Mr. Rumley requested that all future Board recommendations be presented to Council as a Council Action Item to be included on the Council Agenda.

Mr. Tankard shared with the Board the new Load Management advertisement that will be affixed to truck #657. Mr. Tankard informed the Board how diligently Mr. Lewis worked on this project to promote Load Management for the City and the Electric Department.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM until May 15, 2019

Antromeed Johnson – Secretary (252) 975-9303