

DISCUSSION – NEW MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

Chairman Rumley requested an update on the management arrangement for the Electric Department since the departure of the former Electric Director, Jeff Clark. City Manager Russell advised that in the wake of Jeff Clark's departure Alston Tankard has been performing the duties of the Electric Director working as Interim Director for the Electric Department. The duties are shared with Jason Thigpen, an Electric Engineer and employee of ElectriCities, who travels to the area two (2) to three (3) days per week. Mr. Thigpen is under contract to assist with technical and the administrative duties. Jason also provides feedback to City Manager Russell from a third-party perspective of the current setup of the Electric Department. Although still in the analysis stage, City Manager Russell expects to receive from Mr. Thigpen his recommendation on how the Electric Department should be structured if changes are warranted. In addition to observing the day to day operations, Mr. Thigpen is assisting with the transition of the Electric Utility Support Superintendent and Load Management to ensure that all information is being communicated properly. Councilman Wyman asked if the Board would benefit from shifting the meetings to make it accommodating for Mr. Thigpen to attend the monthly Board meetings. City Manager Russell advised that Mr. Thigpen has flexibility in his schedule to be able to attend the monthly Advisory Board meetings. He further advised that the City is currently openly advertising a position for the Electric Director.

ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE:

City Manager Russell stated that as a steering committee his expectation of the Board is to provide recommendations to the Council about the operations of the Electrical Division so that everything can be as efficient as possible. Mr. Russell reiterated the expectation of transparency and hopes to follow the concept of everyone working as one team.

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

Board Member Griffin commented on the recent rate reduction and questioned how impactful it was for the amount that it cost the Electric Department to fund. It was agreed that the rate reduction was quite impactful. Chairman Rumley questioned how the rate reduction was advertised. City Manager Russell answered that the advertisements were done via verbiage on each billing statement, social media, and traditional outlets. Board Member McKinley stated that he is interested in knowing the percentage of Washington Utilities customers who participate in the Load Management. Board Member Knight expressed an interest in understanding how equipped is the department to handle the growth and if the ability exists to satisfy that growth once it takes place. City Manager Russell advised that from an infrastructure, capacity, and electric standpoint the City is well equipped to handle the growth anticipated in the area. Board Member McKinley revisited the prior conversation of mandatory Load Management participation and stated he is opposed to such an action. Board Member Knight recommended mandatory Load Management participation for new construction only. Chairman Rumley asked if the Board would like to vote on whether they could reach a consensus on making a recommendation to City Council. A majority consensus was reached to make the recommendation to City Council that mandatory Load Management participation be a requirement for all new construction. Lastly, Chairman Rumley would like a demonstration to explain and simplify how the SCADA, GIS, and OMS systems will work together.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM until February 20, 2019

Antromeed Johnson – Secretary (252) 975-9303