



Minutes of May 1, 2023

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on Monday, May 1st, 2023. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on April 27, 2023.

Members Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Herbst, Robinson, Force, Gehin
Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Ben Brooks, Anne Jacobson, Valerie Swanborg, James Henderson, Jamie Polley, Joe Kafczynski/ BecherHoppe
Via WebEx: Susan Wojtkiewicz/Donohue

1) Approve Minutes of March 28th 2023 Meeting- Joint Finance.

Herbst motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Robinson.
Motion carried 5-0.

2) Approve Minutes of April 3rd 2023 Meeting.

Robinson motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Herbst.
Motion carried 5-0.

3) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Lindman began there were a couple more items in this but he'd like to take a few minutes to recognize the planning for the future and accomplishments of work from the utility staff over the past several years. Both drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities were highlighted and lead into the report on projects but an acknowledgement with a number of years requiring additional resources into these projects from planning to design to construction and this Spring moving into Summer, the projects would most likely be complete and/or online. The planning that went into this has really set the city up for future success, not only with the regulations coming in the future but just operations in general. We will have some additional operational costs but this would allow flexibility in the future to address future regulations. First one we've seen is PFAS, without this new water plant, we wouldn't have been able to manage it as we are. The Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) project is out for bid and moving forward and on tract to be online by end of 2024. Wastewater Facility is already looking at drying of biosolids awaiting Class A certification with the dryer reducing the volume we have by 88%, putting us in a better position than ever no matter how we would have to manage and dispose of biosolids. The effort put in by Staff is a tribute to their commitment to the city. We also have a list of projects we are doing currently; this is not all inclusive but more of the robust projects we have moving forward and questioned if any Commissioners had questions.

Force motioned Waterworks Commission expresses their thanks to Water and Wastewater Employees for their successful transition to and the operation of the new treatment facilities.

Rosenberg addressed this was not Agendized so we could not make a motion.

Force reiterated that he would like to express that as a statement of his own.

Robinson began he agreed with both Lindman and Force as it's not often that a Utility embarks on both a water and wastewater projects at the same time. The community will be well served into the future. It required all employees to do more and we want to recognize that. He questioned the training for the new staff as an item for future meetings be the staffing study to look more in depth at the needs, operational efficiencies realized as a result of the new treatment facilities, and looking at what the needs/challenges are going forward to get an idea budget wise as well as clarification on Corrosion Control Study (CCT) Study and lead loops with what we are doing and the intended outcome. He also questioned deviation of the PH standards with one of the months from 6 point something to 5 point something.

Boers replied the main intention of the CCT project is to optimize our corrosion control as far as lead leaching into the system as part of the EPA directive, we are required to do this and the DNR is following up. The other portion is to make sure water from the new treatment facility placed into system now doesn't adversely affect our corrosion control that's been in place already. The CCT will assure that the silicate built on the lead walls or pipe walls will not be compromised. The PH would be raw water and the operator would have taken the test on site and could have been equipment error but wouldn't put emphasis on one oddball reading.

Gehin questioned the old lead service testing as he thought it would be new materials and if there were any treatment before the process.

Boers replied it was required to take the old ones, we run our water to season them back to what they would be like for a home, for the first 3-6 months, they are ran regularly to household usage. Following up on Robinson's questions with the PH, these are raw PH levels so just the well waters, our treated water is targeted at 8.5. We treat water dependent on what comes into the plant.

Robinson questioned if there would be variable variability coming in that would prompt different demands on the system?

Boers replied very little on the finished water.

Rosenberg stated we had a visit from the Governor for Earth Day. Lindman gave a tour of the Drinking Water Treatment Plant. The Governor expressed his amazement at the work this department had accomplished in both discovery and pivot.

Director's Report Placed on File.

4) Discussion and Possible Action Accepting a New Water Main Being Installed in Marathon Park.

Lindman began Parks Department had a private water main that had compliance issues and they are replacing that and looping from 17th Ave to Garfield Ave. There was discussion whether it should stay private but for compliance they wanted to put check valves which would not be beneficial to the utility or marathon park from a maintenance standpoint. The utility would like to accept responsibility for the main itself but the services remain responsibility of Marathon County.

Robinson reiterated once installed, we'd take ownership of the main and need motion to accept upon completion for that water main. I would make that motion. Seconded by Gehin.

Motion carried 5-0.

5) Update on PSC Water Rate Case.

Lindman began the PSC's results of the water rate case were in the packet. A public notice went out today for the PSC public hearing and notice was formally published. It was placed in the Wausau Daily Herald, formerly published, placed in social media, press release and on the website. It gives explanation on a residential user in the notice. He questioned if there were any additional questions from the Commissioners.

Gehin stated we could get online but based on rate hearings he's gone to; they should be a

good listener and funnel through staff as these things are touchy.

No Action Taken.

6) Discussion and Possible Action Approving Sole Source Request for Replacement of the Headworks Wastewater Control Panel 100-CP-1.

Brooks began the panel was compromised in June due to severe inclement of weather and water penetrated the panel. Efforts were made to obtain compensation from contractors with no luck so it's fallen back in the city's hand and would like to move forward before corrosion takes over. It's an electrical panel that controls the headworks influent pumps, we need to replace the panel from Integrated Process Solutions (IPS).

Lindman stated that the City purchased its own builders risk for the project, this went back to that and we got a check for everything but the \$25,000 deductible. The panel right now is functioning but it's water compromised and would like to replace this.

Robinson questioned if this one would be waterproof?

Lindman replied the temporary structure over it failed during the inclement weather and now the permanent structure is up so it is protected.

Gehin motioned to proceed with the replacement as specified as this is a critical piece of equipment and if failed would result in lots of backup. Seconded by Robinson.

Motion carried 5-0.

7) Adjourn.

Herbst motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Robinson.

Motion carried 5-0.

Link to view meeting in its entirety: <https://tinyurl.com/wausaucitycouncil>

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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