



**Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October
2, 2019 at 8:00 AM
Civic Center ED Lab**



The Utility Commission of the New Richmond was called to order on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 8:00 AM, in the Civic Center ED Lab, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Patrick Becker, Gerald Warner, Robert Mullen, Mike Kastens, Dan Casey

ABSENT:

**OTHERS
PRESENT:** Rae Ann Ailts, Joel Enders, Jeremiah Wendt, Stacie Running, Weston Arndt,
Steve Skinner, Bob Meyer, Mike Darrow and Marie Bannink

ROLL CALL

Dan Casey attended by phone.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Gerald Warner made a motion to approve the agenda as presented Robert Mullen seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Robert Mullen made a motion to approve the minutes from September 11, 2019. Patrick Becker seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND DISBURSEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 2019 BILLS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Patrick Becker made a motion to approve the September 2019 bills and disbursements. Gerald Warner seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Rae Ann Ailts gave an overview of the 2020 budget and answered questions.

2020-2024 CAPITAL PLAN DISCUSSION

Joel Enders presented the 2020-2024 Capital Plans for Water, Electric and WWTP Departments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

WATER DEPARTMENT - BOB MEYER

- Adam Jackson is busy with inspection detail.
- Jetting and Flushing continues.
- Locates continue to keep coming in.
- New meter installations for new construction.
- Flow-Rite from Galesville, WI was granted the contract for televising.
- Pulled well pump #2 \$26,000 in repairs.
- Josh Buhr and Steve Skinner attended Confined Space training in Plover, WI.
- Pat Howell will be attending Cross Connection Class in Chippewa, WI.

SEWER DEPARTMENT - STEVE SKINNER

- The main lift station pump is installed and everything running.
- Running a pilot for controlling phosphorous levels – trying a new chemical.
- Spoke with State Representative Rob Stafsholt, he is working on getting support for the bill he is proposing that would allow for hauling heavier loads of biosolids.
- Working on planting trees.
- Starting equipment cleanup for fall.
- Taking the UV out of service for the winter.
- Greg Hermansen will be in Green Bay for a conference.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT - WESTON ARNDT

- Congratulations to Kevin Blader on the WPPI Energy Shining Star Award.
- Crew has been performing wood pole replacements.
- Work continues on East 6th and Arch.
- Outage being planned for October 31 - November 1 by BOSCH to replace a transformer.
- Busy with growth, installing new services and primary extensions.
- Pole top and bucket rescue training last week in River Falls.
- Working on internet service project.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - JEREMIAH WENDT

- Attended Municipal Environmental Group meeting regarding the PFAS regulations. Consensus from this meeting was the DNR should follow its typical process for rule making.
- Attended a DNR Technical Advisory Group in Madison where PFAS was a topic of discussion.
- James Place subdivision is wrapping up and should have things in place to accept at the November Council meeting.
- Willow River Bluffs subdivision has started the 2nd phase 40- 50 units.
- Adam Jackson has done a great job representing the city on site.

FINANCE DIRECTOR - RAE ANN AILTS

- Working with Ehlers on the downtown proposals.

- There will be refreshments in the office for Public Power Week.
- PSC billing audit is still in process.
- The next meeting will be November 6th at 3:30 p.m. with dinner to follow.

WPPI-ESR - STACIE RUNNING

- Focus on Energy paid \$18,000 in incentives last month.
- WPPI Annual meeting, Kevin Blader recognized as Shining Star Award recipient.
- October 7-10 Public Power Week.
- October 22 NCDA Lunch and Learn in River Falls.
- October 27-30 Customer Connections Conference, NRU will be recognized for Smart Energy Provider Designation.
- November 6 WPPI/Slipstream Compressed Air Course - Registration scholarships offered.
- Customer Connections include, Isometric Tool, Bernard's, NRPD, 45th Parallel, Derrick Construction, Phillips and Federal Foam.

UTILITY MANAGER - MIKE DARROW

- Working on the downtown project, a community discussion will take place on October 17th.
- Working with Richmond Township on the rail project, we are working on community conversation to be held at WITC next week.

COMMUNICATION AND MISCELLANEOUS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Gerald Warner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 a.m. Patrick Becker seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.