

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Tuesday March 26, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Public Works held on March 26, 2024 at 7:30 a.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 405 Jefferson Street, Washington, Missouri. The following were present/absent:

MEMBERS:

Chairman	John Vietmeier	Present
Vice Chairman	Brad Mitchell	Present
Secretary	Mike Radetic	Present
Member	Steve Richardson	Absent
Ex-officio Member	Steve Strubberg	Absent
Ex-officio Member	Vacant	

OTHERS:

Council Representative	Mike Coulter	Absent
Council Representative	Chad Briggs	Absent
Mayor	James Hagedorn	Present
City Administrator	Darren Lamb	Present
Public Works Superintendent	Kevin Quaethem	Absent
Water/Wastewater Admin. Asst.	Theresa Lamke	Present
Interim City Engineer	Charles Stankovic	Present
Assistant City Engineer	Andrea Lueken	Absent
Waste Water Foreman	Kerry Duke	Present
Water Foreman	Dylan Voss	Present
GIS Engineering		

Originals and/or copies of agenda items of the meeting, including recorded votes are available on record in the office of the Public Works Department for one year. Video/DVD and audio tapes are kept only until the minutes have been approved for the meeting. DVD copies of this meeting are distributed to Board Members if requested.

Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Radetic to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held January 23, 2024 meeting. The motion passed without dissent.
Then February 27th. meeting Motion to approve Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Vietmeier seconded, the motion passed without dissent.

Priority Items

There was a break in front of the Franklin County Bank, underneath the retaining wall. It was right underneath the retaining wall, which had collapsed in on the main once we started digging. We were unable to get the water shut off from one direction without putting a bunch of restaurants out of water. We attempted to do a line stop to keep them in water as long as possible, which took a lot longer than what we had hoped for. We eventually got the line stop in and were able to dig on the leak and dig the retaining wall off the main and get it fixed. It was about a four or five-inch hole right in the bottom of the eight-inch cast iron main underneath the retaining wall.

You got to put back together.

Yes

Great job, though. Now it's just repairing the retaining wall and getting all the dirt work put back. You're aware of other spots we expect that this could happen with that retaining wall? It's possible. I mean, the main runs underneath that whole retaining wall and underneath that big brick sign. It's very possible. I thank that it didn't break under the sign. It's cast iron, so it's probably pre-1970. Aging and destruction. So, if it goes under some of the other stuff that's there, I guess that's It's one of those considerations of, if we think it's in danger, do we reroute it or what have you? But I guess that's up to you guys. Well, we do have an encroachment agreement with the bank on that sign that he was referring to. Thank you. Just so you know, that's been addressed with them. Like I said, other than that, I don't really have any other comments as to far... Because I hadn't had a chance to talk to Kevin

Darren Lamb: I have asked Kevin and Justin Frankenberg, who's our emergency management director. I don't know if you guys are aware of Justin. Sherry, who's in the back. Sherry does all our managing our posts of anything that goes out to the media. Well, with regards to social media, et cetera. I guess what I wanted to let this board know just with regards to whenever we do a boil order. I want to go ahead and review that policy again for what are the steps. Just make sure that anything we can do to improve on it, I think we could have improved on this situation and notifying the public. But until we get a chance to go ahead and review that, I don't know what improvements can go ahead and be made; with that being said, what we typically do, even though probably the way to get out what we have realized, the way to get out to the general public, and I'm not saying that this encompasses all of the public. I'm not saying that, but it is Facebook does get a lot of views and people that word spreads quickly. After we do that, we also keep Code Red, which is in place, which is people can go ahead and sign up for that. We go ahead and put a call out to them.

One of the things that the city is going to be doing here in the next month is launching an app called **Apogee**. It is basically an app that all of our citizens can go ahead and sign up for on their phones. It's just another way to go ahead and communicate with them. What we can do is we can target, even with this, we can send a message and put that out to all social media that we have. It goes out to everybody that's got the app. It's just another way to go ahead and broadcast any news of what we have. A boil order definitely would go ahead and qualify as emergency. We will still keep code red because code red allows us to go ahead and basically target neighborhoods just like you would need for a boil order that you can go ahead and just We just want this block, et cetera, or like we did with the map and say, because we did call code red on this with those areas and just target those. We're going to keep that

because at this time, we can't just zero in on neighborhoods with this app, but code red will still allow us. We're going to go ahead and keep that notification process. But I just want to alert the board. In case you had any calls or concerns with regards to this last and how we notify, we're going to take a look at that. This is going to be another tool or a toolbox to get the message out. Thank you. Will there be something to get out to, obviously, when that app will be ready, but to get out to everyone to say, Hey, when we need to communicate to you, here are the possible avenues that you need to be aware.

Yes, I think, like I said, we're going to launch this and bring this up with our council. The launch date is April eighth; part of it was they took over our website. You can't see it really. If you looked at our website before and you look at it now, I don't think there's really any difference, but it is through this new app to G or whatever. Anything that's on there, it goes on the website as Well, that's another thing. So basically, Sherry, myself, anybody, the administrators can go ahead and just type a message through there, and then we can hit what all things do we want to go ahead and send this out on. So, it can go out on all social media, go on all those platforms. So we'll keep it, like I said, and we'll launch it. We're going to go ahead. We'll probably use Facebook, to be quite honest, to say, Hey, the city's got a new app. Check on any news or anything city related or whatever. This is what you can go ahead and use.

How about the newspaper? I mean, will you have something in the newspaper? Absolutely. The one sure way to get it to everybody is in the bill. True. Yeah. And we'll go ahead. We're going to launch it out every single week. We can add a line down there at the bottom of the bill. We did change some stuff like when the sewer rates increased, we had a blurb down there at the bottom. Yeah.

Wastewater

Water

Update on water tank. The company came out and disinfected it yesterday and we began filling it. We were still in the processing of filling it. So as soon as it's full, we will isolate it and get a sample off, of it. And once the sample is taken, we will open it up to the system.

The only question I had is, I guess we all got that letter from Bev Hoeft, has there been that much kickback about the rate increases?

We have had comments. I know Theresa has probably dealt with the brunt of that as well, too. Yes, we had some probably some senior accounts that it was an increase. I think, and I'm just going with what numbers, and Theresa will chime in anytime because she's on the front line of dealing with it. I mean, I think out of your 6,600 customers that we have, about 5,000 of them saw something within what we expected, which was about anywhere up to \$20 increase. And those that had over that, I think what we found was that in those situations there was something going on that was causing... They either had a slow leak or a major leak or whatever. I joked with Kevin, and I don't mean to take it lightly, But I joked with Kevin, our rates were so low that people didn't even know they had leaks. And that's really the case. That's true. And so you did have situations. We even had a councilman, as you probably saw in the paper, whatever from the article. I mean, Jeff Patke was talking about how his rate went over \$20, and then we found a leak, I run a report to see what's going on at his address. I think for the most part, I would venture to say things have died down a little bit. People understand that. I think they realize what we have

to go ahead and do. And I will tell you just from dealing on the financial side of things, we were operating in the red, and we cannot continue to go ahead and do that. We can all sit there and say, well, why were we operating in the red? But there's a lot of, you can point the fingers at everybody. But I mean, that's fine. We fixed the problem as far as that goes. But I think for the most part, people understood it. Once they looked into it, they understood the need of why the city had to go ahead and raise the rates and at least what they did. I'm happy that you as a board chose to go ahead and go with that seven dollars. I know there was a lot of discussion. We could have bumped it up slowly if we wanted to, but I think the council felt the same way that the board did. That was the only major complaint was, Yeah. They wouldn't have minded it if it had come in gradually. Right. That's hindsight's 2020. I still don't... I wouldn't second guess that decision. I still think that it was like... I think we did what we had to do. I think this is my third rate increase in all these years. And yes, people were not happy, but once we went through their account, especially the 20 and below, they weren't happy with the cost but they were understandable. There was nobody so outright that I had to send them to Darren or Kevin. I had a gentleman yesterday. He's using 20 gallons an hour. I said, You have a toilet leak, and he's going to check it out last night. He was adamant he didn't have anything going on. It's our meters. I said, Well, you do these, and then if nothing else, we would send Dylan or Jordan over there. But like I said, it's amazing. People are really being more acceptable than I thought they would be. Right. That's good.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 23 , 2024 .

Motion to adjourn

Motion by Mike Radetic and seconded Brad Mitchell. The motion passed.

Prepared by: _____
Theresa Lamke
Water/Wastewater
Administrative Assistant

Adopted and Approved by the Board of Public Works:

Date: _____ Signature: _____
Secretary