

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

5:30 p.m.

The Public Works Commission met on the above date and time. The following members were present: Alderpersons Brad Blanke, Dan Bartz, and Tony Arnett; Citizen member Pete Thompson. Alderperson Myron Moldenhauer was absent. Also present: City Staff Andrew Beyer, Pete Hartz, Maureen McBroom, Fire Chief Tanya Reynen.

1. **Call to order.** Chairperson Arnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Comments and Suggestions from Citizens Present.** None.
3. **Review and take possible action. Minutes of PWC meeting of September 23.** Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Blanke. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. **Review and take possible action: 2025 Stormwater Utility Rate Study Update.** Steve Wurster of Ruekert Mielke presented revised rate scenarios for the Stormwater Utility. Each scenario attempted to spread out the increase in year 1 over the subsequent years. Mr. Wurster described how rates had not been adjusted since 2020 and showed how rates had simply been adjusted for inflation the last 6 years, the proposed rate increase would not have been necessary. Mr. Wurster focused on the revised "Alternate 2" rate plan, which instead of the previously discussed year 1 increase of 16% now showed a lesser increase of 9% (a decrease of \$1/month for homeowners.) This revised rate plan called for dropping the cash balance below the industry-recommended 100% to only 81%. However, it was agreed this was an acceptable risk at this time. Mr. Blanke moved to recommend the revised "Alternate 2" rate plan, to revisit the rates in 5 years, and to build in annual inflationary increases in the future. Mr. Bartz seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. **Update, no action required: Clark Street STP-Urban Grant Submittal.** Ms. McBroom shared that the grant application for the Clark Street project had been approved by the Finance Committee and City Council and had been submitted to the State. The City portion of the project is \$797,000, while the State portion is \$1.7 million. We are anticipating hearing back on the grant in February 2026. If the grant is not awarded, we can re-apply, pending feedback from the State on the overall competitiveness of this particular project.
6. **Update, no action required: Fannie P. Lewis Park Shoreline Stabilization Project.** This project is receiving DNR grant funding and is currently in the design, with the expectation of being bid out and completed next year.
7. **Review and discuss: agreement with the City of Waukesha Fire Department and the City of Watertown Fire Department for specialized emergency response services.** Due to the storage and use of chlorine in the 3 treatment facilities in the City, the City needs to have emergency services ready to respond in case of an issue. While the Watertown Fire Department can respond to some issues, the Waukesha Fire Department has the full-time HAZMAT team required to handle other issues. This agreement formalizes a prior understanding with both departments. Once the City Attorney completes their review, it will come back to the Commission for review and approval. Mr. Blanke asked if there are alternatives to the use of chlorine. Mr. Hartz mentioned sodium hypochlorite as an alternative, but it would require regulatory review and equipment changes. This will be further evaluated when the relevant equipment comes up in the annual capital planning process.

8. **Review and take possible action: Wastewater Department; approve biosolids land application agreement.** The City's previous service provider ceased operations and their assets were acquired by Synagro. Mr. Hartz attempted to get bids from other companies, but no one would submit bids (it is a dwindling field of providers.) Synagro's bid is in line with prior contract costs. Mr. Thompson moved to recommend the agreement to Council. Mr. Bartz seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
9. **Review and take possible action: Purchase new primary sludge pumps.** The City has 4 primary sludge pumps. All are of a similar age, well beyond their anticipated lifespan. Only 2 are currently operational. One has ceased operating and can't be fixed. One has a bad compressor and is so old no replacement parts are available. The consulting engineer estimated a cost of \$188,000 for the 4 pumps, instrumentation, and controls. The recommended pumps came in at a cost of \$105,206. They are from the same manufacturer as other pumps used in other parts of the plant and share some maintenance procedures and replacement parts. They also eliminate the need for a separate air handling system. This expense was anticipated for this year. Mr. Bartz moved to recommend the purchase to Council. Mr. Thompson seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
10. **Adjournment.** Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn at 6:21 p.m., seconded by Mr. Blanke. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Arnett, Chairperson