

In Attendance

Mayor S. Bierce, Committee Members: M. Kreiter, D. Swan, J. Tormey

Absent

Alderman J. Wamser

Also in Attendance

M. Wagner-Director of Public Works, J. Mueller-Utility Manager, R. Wirtz-Chief Engineer-Utilities, R. Kincaid-Assistant Utility Manager, M. Gabbey-Chief Engineer Streets & Development

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Bierce called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Discussion and Action Regarding the Minutes

3.1 Discussion and possible action regarding the meeting minutes of 8/29/2024.

**A motion was made and seconded by (Tormey, Swan) to approve the August 29, 2024 meeting minutes.**

**Motion passed: For-4, Against-0**

4. Water and Sewer Division

4.1. Discussion regarding the Water & Sewer Utility Budget

Ms. Wagner reported on the water and sewer utility budget, stating that Ms. Mueller worked hard with our financial consultants on the budget.

Ms. Mueller stated that this year's utility budget looks different due to our classification as an AB utility. It is more defined than in previous years. She said it has been a struggle going back and forth between our old accounting and the new accounting because it was our conversion year to an AB utility. In some areas, like in wages, there is a section that had entries for 2023, but did not include any for 2024. She was told that next year and moving forward everything will correctly align with the account numbers.

The water utility budget, before depreciation is removed, shows the utility made \$113,000. There was a loss in the sewer utility budget. The utility is experiencing rate increases for both the water and sewer. We will be looking to perform a rate review of the sewer budget this coming year. The utility did a rate study nearly four years ago, and at that time it was still good. Since then, we have been saddled by rate increases from the treatment plant, as well as other contracted areas of service. We have seen significant rate increases in the City of Waukesha and in the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District.

Ms. Mueller said a conversation took place with an engineering firm this morning and they said that projects they are bidding are coming in 25% higher this year.

She said the utility is dealing with aging infrastructure as well. As we move into the capital budget, there are some significant expenditures that will need to be made. These are all regular operations, not new wells. We had some significant infrastructure emergency repairs that had to be completed in 2024. Two were expected and two were unexpected well pumps that failed. An analysis is done every time one fails. These particular failures had nothing to do with the manufacturers. We are upgrading the system to try and provide more protection on our side.

The utility has been spending a lot of money on studies because of the PFAS contamination that was discovered. We will be considering our options on how to provide treatment and how to move forward as we receive more information.

Ms. Mueller stated that the utility performed a facility plan a year ago. Now it is time to take it to the next level. With the contamination issues and difficulties with the wells collapsing, it is time to look at what the ultimate needs of the utility are for the future.

The utility is looking to move into service areas on the far northwest side of the city. We are working on long-term planning to determine how we can accomplish providing service to the community. We need to review the viability of the aquifers in use to ensure we have the ability to achieve the capacity needs in or near our boundaries. We will be reviewing the geological formations to find out if there are other well sites, or if we should be doing a surface water and groundwater blend.

Mr. Swan questioned the wage numbers and fluctuation. Ms. Mueller explained that the number she calculated was based on what tasks our staff performed, and that the ratio changes from year to year depending on what the hours were in any given task for that prior year. You will see that numbers fluctuate over time and are combined with 15 other wage accounts to break up the operations, because that is what the PSC requires.

Mr. Swan questioned the health insurance costs. She responded that the difference is mainly because we had a couple of employees opt in for health insurance for 2025.

Ms. Mueller explained that the split between the water and sewer utility was done differently last year. We are now splitting the benefits fifty-fifty as we recognize staff is spending more time in the sewer utility. Previously, it was two-thirds and one-third. Because of this, there will be a bump on the sewer end that was previously absorbed by the water utility.

Mr. Kreiter asked Ms. Mueller what do we rent? She replied that both the water utility and sewer utility pay rent for the office space at City Hall. The water utility also pays a PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) for their infrastructure out of revenue.

## 5. Engineering Division

### 5.1. Discussion and possible action to install a streetlight at the intersection of River Park Drive and Pewaukee Road (STH 164)

Ms. Wagner stated this item was brought forward by Alderman Wamser. The city has approximately 70 streetlights throughout the community. Some streetlights are paid for by HOA, and a portion of them are paid for by the city. City streetlights are owned and paid for by We Energies, and the city pays for electricity. She explained that there are no utility poles on the west side of the intersection of River Park Drive and Pewaukee Road, though there are some on the east side of the intersection. It is unclear how much of the spread of light would hit this intersection if it was on the west side because of the six lanes of traffic in that area. So likely there would have to be a new pole installed on the west side to provide that service. If the committee wanted to move forward with that, We Energies would need to be contacted to get a formal design and estimate.

There are several issues in the design that need to be discussed: where the pole should be placed, whether on the east or west side, and whether to go underground or across STH 164.

Pat Pom, W240N2532 East Parkway Meadow Circle, Unit 1 stated that about a year ago she approached the president of her condo association, and the board members agreed that she should pursue this streetlight in the interest of safety, and the fact that it is not configured as a normal intersection with regular traffic flow.

Mayor Bierce suggested Ms. Pom contact Ms. Wagner to obtain the cost estimates for the streetlight and monthly electricity charges. He also suggested she continue speaking with Alderman Wamser as a source of information.

No action was taken.

## 5.2. Discussion and possible action regarding Johns Disposal contract.

Ms. Wagner reported that though this committee recommended that we opt in for the one-year extension on the Johns Disposal contract, the Common Council ultimately elected to choose the five-year extension. Johns requested a more simplified contract and provided a sample of one they used in another community. Ms. Wagner said she took our existing contract and added information to it that she felt was relevant to the service and expectations that we currently have and want for Johns, and to make it easier for both parties to read.

The other item added into the contract was the yard waste at our recycling center. That is a separate agreement we will have with Johns. The deliveries to Johnson's Nursery are by Waste Management. We have been struggling with Waste Management delivering the yard waste to Johnsons Nursery according to their policies. It was determined that we do not have a contract for that service, and after some push back Waste Management has been working with us and things have improved.

In the existing contract, when adjustments were made, there was a cap on adjustments based on a couple of different indices for gas and commodities. All of that has been removed. The Council chose a flat rate, which includes a 4% increase per year for the next four years. Ms. Wagner also added in the contract that we would not be replacing the carts. This committee has been provided with a copy, as well as Johns and our city attorney for review.

Ms. Wagner stated she has not received any comments back so far, but anticipates that we would be able to review any potential conflicts in a future discussion. She recommended a preliminary approval contingent on the final review by the city attorney and herself.

Mr. Tormey asked if the ordinance numbers were correct. Ms. Wagner said yes, but they are probably going to change because all of our codes are going through a revamp. They will be updated with new numbers when that comes forward.

**A motion was made and seconded (Swan, Tormey) to recommend the Johns Disposal contract to Council.**  
**Motion passed: For-4, Against-0.**

Mayor Bierce asked about reviewing the capital budget, but it was decided it would be brought up at the next meeting.

6. Public Comments  
None

7. Adjournment

**A motion was made and seconded (Tormey, Kreiter) to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m.**  
**Motion Passed: For-4, Against-0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Magdelene Wagner  
Director of Public Works