

**WATERLOO UTILITY MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 09, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Mayor – Tom Smith

Clerk – Mechelle Childers

Alderman Ward I Matt Buettner

Aldermen Ward II Jim Trantham & Jim Hopkins

Aldermen Ward III Stan Darter & Kyle Buettner

Aldermen Ward IV Clyde Heller & Russ Row

Shawn Kennedy – Collector / Finance, Tim Birk – Director of Public Works, Brad

Yearian – Building Inspector / Code Administrator, Jeffrey Prosise – Chief of Police,

Sarah Deutch – Community Relations Coordinator, Natalie Steppig – City Attorney.

Water Plant Project – John Wieter, HMG Engineers, Inc.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency approved the loan requested by the City for the proposed water plant. The loan is for 30 million dollars at a 1.24% interest rate and can be repaid on a 20 or 30-year plan. The cost figures have been updated since the loan has been approved. An amortization sheet with the new estimated costs was distributed. Mr. Wieter explained that the costs continue to rise, but he felt confident the IEPA would grant more money if needed. Additional amortization sheets included annual and monthly cost comparisons between the proposed plant and Illinois American Water. Loan payments with or without the use of ARPA money were also included. The entire project will be constructed and bid out under three smaller projects.

1. Finished 18” Water Main.
2. Raw Water Facilities and Water Treatment Plant.
3. 500,000 Gallon Elevated Storage Tank.

The plan is to advertise for bids on February 01, 2023.

Alderman Kyle Buettner suggested the City accept the 30-year loan and use the assigned ARPA funds to reduce the loan amount. The Mayor and all the Aldermen agreed to a 30-year loan and to use the assigned ARPA monies to reduce the loan.

Pilot/Well Testing – Water testing took place in November and December. Mr. Wieter distributed a spreadsheet of the test results. The pilot went very well, and the hardness and iron content of the water is at acceptable levels. The plant needs to be operational by May 2024 so the final testing can be completed. The scheduled ‘go live’ date is October 2024.

There was a short discussion about high-service pumps. A space will be available for high-service pumps if we decide to sell water to Valmeyer. Everything has been designed to increase capacity as needed.

Petitions by Citizens on Non-Agenda Items. None.

City Clerk – Mechelle Childers

Motion to approve the Utility Minutes dated December 12, 2022 was made by Alderman Row and seconded by Alderman Heller.

Items for Clarification:

Alderman Trantham asked about the Lead Service Lines under Tim Birk (Item e). He wanted to verify that the City had 10 years to replace the lines. Tim Birk verified the time frame and added that the lines in question were actually galvanized with a lead whip. These lines are referred to as ‘lead service’ lines by the IEPA. We have no lead mains in Waterloo.

Motion passed to approve the Utility Minutes dated December 12, 2022 with Aldermen Row, Heller, Matt Buettner, Hopkins, Trantham, Darter and Kyle Buettner voting ‘yea’.

City Building Inspector – Brad Yearian

- a. Monthly Report – The December monthly report was distributed.
- b. Old Grosse Lumber Building on Park Street – The old Grosse Lumber building was demolished after a fire damaged the structure beyond repair. A video was shown of the demolition.
- c. Market Street Property – An individual on Market Street had car parts and a mini junkyard on his property. After being informed he was in violation of an ordinance, he erected a wedding/event tent for the items. He was then informed the tent was also an ordinance violation. The tent has been removed, and the homeowner is looking at other options.
- d. Vandebrook Property – The fence on the property is falling apart. The home is missing some siding and the soffits are falling out. The homeowner was cited and issued a fine.
- e. Building Inspector Vehicle – The transmission is slipping and the vehicle has a significant oil leak. Due to the mechanical issues, the City Building Inspector was informed to check on the availability of a replacement vehicle and get cost estimates.
- f. Watertown Lane – The Building Inspector was asked to check on a derelict car in the backyard on Watertown Lane.
- g. Silver Creek – Construction at Silver Creek continues to be monitored.
- h. Washy’s Saloon – Washy’s was informed that a fire sprinkler system needs to be installed.
- i. 520 S. Main – Clyde Haudrich, owner of the property, has 30 days to vacate the home. The house is scheduled to be demolished due to its poor condition.

Community Relations Coordinator – Sarah Deutch

- a. Heritage Wall – Work continues on the Heritage Wall. Waiting to receive and review the mock-up from Summit Signs.
- b. Year End Review – Working on the 2022 year in review and the 2023 annual calendar of events.
- c. Business Banner Program – Renewals have been sent out to existing participants for the Business Banner Program. They have three weeks to respond before any open poles are offered to new businesses.

Collector/Finance Officer – Shawn Kennedy

- a. Illinois American Water – A press release was distributed regarding an Illinois American Water rate increase effective January 01, 2023. This rate increase was approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). It is estimated that our water rates will increase between 27% and 30%. In addition, there will be a CPI increase for both water and sewer. It is estimated that this increase will be 8.5% for water and 8.5% for sewer. A meeting will be held on January 17, 2023 for the Water and Sewer Committee to discuss these increases.

- b. Waterline Breaks – There have been numerous waterline breaks due to the cold weather. The property owners understand that they need to pay for the water, but are questioning having to pay for the sewer costs. There was a short discussion on how to handle the situation and it was decided this topic should be addressed at the upcoming Water and Sewer Committee meeting.
- c. Enterprise Zone – There is an Enterprise Zone meeting on January 24, 2023 to discuss if the local governmental entities want to participate in a property tax abatement. This meeting will also discuss how the abatement incentives will be implemented. Moran Economic Development sent a memo, which was distributed, explaining the tax abatement process. It was suggested that the Economic Development Committee meet before January 24, 2023 to determine how the City feels about the proposed abatement.

Director of Public Works – Tim Birk

- a. Water Plant ROINC (Responsible Operator in Charge) - Tim Albers, who is our ROINC to oversee the water treatment and distribution operations of our water plant has left his position with HMG Engineers and started his own company. Since HMG does not have a ROINC person, we will need to sign a contract with Mr. Albers to retain his services. The ROINC position is a requirement of the IEPA, and we should plan to have our own ROINC person in the future.
- b. Retirement Announcements – Chris Frank (Gas Department) will be retiring on October 02, 2023 and Tom Maag (Electric Department) is planning to retire on June 01, 2023. Both of these positions will need to be filled.
- c. STP (Surface Transportation Project) – Working on the STP application for the HH road improvements. The deadline for submitting the application is February 09, 2023.
- d. Lead Service Lines Update – Clarification was made that we have 309 residential galvanized lines that will need to be replaced. The terms “lead” lines and “galvanized” lines, although different terms, are classified the same per IEPA. Next week, we will start looking at commercial business service lines.
- e. Moore Street Project – The only remaining concrete work is on the wall at the thrift store. The north entrance to Gibault’s parking lot should be open by the end of the week. Phase 7 is scheduled for 2024.
- f. Christmas Decorations – Christmas decorations will start coming down on January 10, 2023.

Chief of Police – Jeff Prosis

- a. Job Applications – Five (5) applications for a lateral police officer were received. We will move forward with these applications and start background checks.
- b. Queen of Hearts – The Queen of Hearts drawing caps at 2 million dollars. Is a 2 million dollar cap still a reasonable number or should it cap the game at 1 million dollars like Columbia? It was mentioned that the ordinance specifies a 2 million dollar limit. There have been parking issues and a few minor issues with this event.

City Attorney – Natalie Steppig

- a. Curt Simshauser Photo/Cinema Studios – A letter was sent to Curt Simshauser Photo/Cinema Studios regarding the fulfillment of the City’s contract for photo content.
- b. Executive Session – There is no need for an Executive Session this evening.

Mayor's Report

- a. Travel Expense Approval for APPA – The Mayor and Tim Birk will be attending the APPA in Washington, DC.. Airfare and lodging will be reimbursed. It is estimated \$600.00 will be needed for meals and local transportation.
Motion made by Alderman Kyle Buettner and seconded by Alderman Darter to approve the \$600.00 in estimated expenses for the APPA Meeting for Mayor Smith and Tim Birk.
Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Homecoming – The Homecoming Committee is considering moving the Waterloo Homecoming to the Monroe County Fairgrounds. The reason is due to the amount of time it takes to set up and tear down each day. Additionally, downtown businesses are complaining about the vendors setting up in front of their businesses and the closure of streets.

Committee Reports

- a. Planning Committee
 - 1. JP Fitzgibbons & George Obernagel Revised Exterior Building Material Request for Commercial Building located at 203 West Mill Street.
This was originally discussed at the Planning Committee meeting. JP Fitzgibbons & George Obernagel are requesting the elimination of the four-foot brick side return extensions. The council already granted a variance for the exterior building material. This is a further variance request. The aldermen believed the brick corners would enhance the appearance of the building. After no motion was made to further change the variance, it was agreed to leave the variance as it was originally presented and approved.

Committee Minutes Approval

- 1. 12-19-22 Ordinance Committee Meeting Minutes. Hopkins-1st, Heller-2nd. Passed.
- 2. 01-03-23 JOINT Beautification & Finance Cmte Mtg Mins. Hopkins-1st, Darter-2nd. Passed.
- 3. 01-03-23 JOINT Planning & Street Cmte Mtg Minutes. Heller-1st, Row-2nd. Passed.

Comments

Alderman Hopkins stated he toured the Tannous Loving Care Senior Living (TLC) facility and encouraged others to do the same. The Tannous' have done a nice job in remodeling the building.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Kyle Buettner and seconded by Alderman Matt Buettner. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mechelle Childers – City Clerk