



City of Palos Heights

Water and Sewer Committee

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bylut called the Water and Sewer Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Palos Heights City Hall, 7607 W. College Drive. In attendance were Chairman Bylut, Aldermen Basso, and Alderman Lewandowski, Public Works Director Adam Jasinski, and Recording Secretary Margaret Carey. Absent was Alderman McGrogan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Bylut made a Motion to approve the minutes of the Water and Sewer Committee meeting held on July 23, 2019, seconded by Alderman Basso. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – none.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Public Works Director Adam Jasinski presented the following reports:

- Water main repairs: There have been 24 water main breaks YTD. 2 breaks recently at Pottawatomoni and the other on Oak Hills. Alderman Lewandowski inquired whether Jasinski thought 24 was a high number of breaks for the City. Jasinski said it is slightly high and the reason is due to our aging infrastructure.
- Emergency repair on the Oak Hills generator was repaired on 8-16-2019.
- Tank Inspections: on the Rt. 83 steel reservoirs were completed by Strand. We are now waiting their report.
- Oak Lawn Water Transmission Main Project: The kickoff meeting is tomorrow 8-28-2019.
- Valve Exercising: the first half will be completed by 8-30-2019. Hydrant flushing will begin at the same time.

**MWRD**

No update.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Director Jasinski sought approval for:

1. A payment to RJN Group for professional engineering services rendered through 7-19-2019 totaling \$53,193.54. The services provided included: Completion of smoke testing field work, MWRD submittal support, flow meter installations, Data group flow data checks, and GIS updates. Director Jasinski provided the Committee with RJN's Smoke Testing results. Overall 122 smoke observations were made. These items are mandated by MWRD. The majority of defects (72) were found in the private sector; most significant defects found in foundation drains and underground downspouts.

Alderman Bylut moved to approve the payment to RJN Group in the amount of \$53,193.54, seconded by Alderman Lewandowski. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. **Agenda**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Alderman Basso indicated that over a year ago he requested additional information be provided on the back of the water bills. It is still not done. He wants examples of what can be added – to explain the bill and how it is calculated. Chairman Bylut said he will ask City Administrator Nisavic when he returns.

Alderman Basso asked, what is the balance in our Water reserve account? Chairman Bylut responded approximately \$4.5M; adding that the purpose of this reserve is not just to offset rate increases, but should be available for expensive repairs to our aging infrastructure.

Alderman Basso offered to bring the water rate increase discussion back to the Water Committee since Alderman Lewandowski is somewhat new to the topic and he was not present at the last Water Committee meeting. Alderman Lewandowski felt informed and did not desire to bring the topic back. He agreed the City should be prepared to fix the old infrastructure. Chairman Bylut added it is wise to be financially prepared and not put our residents at risk. Director Jasinski added that absorbing the cost of the water rate increase will cost the City approximately \$150,000 per year and will be taking away from reserves.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Jasinski indicated that he will be asking the Committee to approve the purchase of a replacement Water truck. The current truck is from the 1970's and is difficult to start. It is old and at the end of its life cycle. Jasinski will begin gathering quotes and present at a future meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Bylut moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Lewandowski. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Margaret Carey, Recording Secretary