



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Wastewater Commission

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 303

The meeting was called to order by Commission President, Natalia Taft, at 4:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 7 - Natalia Taft, John Tate II, Mollie Jones, Terry McCarthy, Anthony Beyer, Anthony Bunkelman and Paul Vornholt

EXCUSED: 4 - John Hewitt, Stacy Sheppard, Claude Lois and Cory Mason

[0224-24](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the February 19, 2024, Wastewater Commission Meeting

Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by Bunkelman, seconded by Alder Jones, that this file be Approved

[0225-24](#)

Subject: Mount Pleasant Interceptor Rates 2024

Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The rates are calculated annually and approved by the Village of Mt. Pleasant Sewer Utility using methodology from an Agreement established in 1993 to recover operation, maintenance, and depreciation costs applied to SSR Party flow conveyed through the interceptor.

A motion was made by Beyer, seconded by Alder McCarthy, that this file be Approved

[0243-24](#)

Subject: Proposal from Carlson Dettmann Consulting for Wastewater Utility Market Rate Study

Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Cost of the proposal is \$18,500

The Wastewater Utility Director presented a proposal for Carlson Dettmann Consulting to perform a market survey to align the Utility pay scale with the current utility market rates. Any modifications will be proposed to be included in the 2025 budget.

A motion was made by Vornholt, seconded by Vice President Tate II, that this file be Approved with the understanding that the total cost of the proposal will be split evenly between the Water and Wastewater Utilities.

[0226-24](#)

Subject: Communication from Wastewater Utility Director regarding Renewable Energy Study and Planning

Recommendation: To Receive & File

Fiscal Note: N/A

In an effort to fulfill the direction of the Commission to attain energy efficiency, Wastewater staff has contracted with Cascade Energy to review our current and future energy demands. Currently, the treatment facility is about 41% renewable. Upon completion of equipment upgrades currently in progress which includes: air permitting, aeration process control, and an engine generator, this percentage is projected to reach 59%.

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Vice President Tate II, that this file be Received and Filed

[0227-24](#)

Subject: Communication from Wastewater Utility Director regarding Construction Air Permit Issuance

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director updated the Commission on the issuance of the Utility's new Construction and Operation Air Pollution Control Permit effective 03/04/2024. The construction permit has a duration of 18 months and the operating permit will expire in March of 2029. With this Permit, the Utility will also move from a Title V "minor" source to a "major" source, meaning that there will be greater operating flexibility, along with more stringent testing and reporting.

A motion was made by Alder Jones, seconded by Bunkelman, that this file be Received and Filed

[0242-24](#)

Subject: Communication sponsored by Alder McCarthy, on behalf of the Racine Wastewater Director, requesting permission to submit the amendment of a resolution authorizing purchase of land and easements related to the Chicory Road Area Sewer Improvements Project.

Recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee on 04-08-2024: That the Racine Wastewater Director be granted permission to submit the amendment of a resolution authorizing purchase of land and easements related to the Chicory Road Area Sewer

Improvements Project for approval.

Recommendation of the Wastewater Commission on 03/19/2024:

To approve with a referral to the Finance & Personnel Committee.

Fiscal Note: Additional temporary easement cost of \$5,530.

The Wastewater Utility updated the Commission on the proposed construction of a storage basin in the Chicory Road area related to the Chicory Road Sewer Improvements Project. Construction of the walls for the storage basin will require installation of anchors that extend beyond the limits of the current purchased easement, thereby making it necessary that the Utility purchase more temporary easement to accommodate these anchors.

A motion was made by Vornholt, seconded by Alder Jones, that this file be Approved & Referred to the Finance and Personnel Committee

[0228-24](#)

Subject: Amendment #2 of Rate Stabilization Fund Policy

Recommendation of the Wastewater Commission on 03/19/2024:

To Defer this item until the next meeting due to the absence of Mayor Mason, who requested to have input on this item

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by Vornholt, seconded by Alder Jones, that this file be Deferred

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Beyer, to enter into Closed Session

AYES:

Beyer

Bunkelman

Jones

McCarthy

Taft

Tate II

Vornholt

[0229-24](#)

Subject: Communication sponsored by Alder McCarthy requesting that the Wastewater Commission meet regarding bargaining and development opportunities, which, for competitive and bargaining reasons, require a closed session

Recommendation: To be discussed

Fiscal Note: N/A

Closed Session Discussion

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Vice President Tate II, seconded by President Taft, to enter into Open Session

AYES:

Beyer

Bunkelman

Jones

McCarthy

Taft

Tate II

Vornholt

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Vice-President Tate II, that this item be Received & Filed

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.