



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Waterworks Commission

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 303

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 pm. by Commissioner Taft, who was running the meeting in place of Commission President Jorgenson, who was in attendance virtually via zoom.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 4 - Natalia Taft, Cory Mason, Terry McCarthy and Jens Jorgenson

EXCUSED: 4 - John Tate II, Stacy Sheppard, Mollie Jones and Jim Sullivan

[0140-25](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the January 15, 2025, Waterworks Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by Mayor Mason, seconded by Jorgenson, that this file be Approved.

[0141-25](#)

Subject: Communication from the Utility Director Regarding the US EPA Inspection

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented an update on the progress of the EPA Inspection that had commenced Tuesday, carried on into Wednesday and would be wrapping up the following day. The scope of the inspection included the following areas:

Cyber Security inspection

Risk Resiliency

Interview plant superintendent, chief engineer, other drinking water staff

General background (staffing, population served, service area, etc.)

Review records, plans, drawings etc.

Source and intake

Water Treatment Plant Walkthrough

Distribution System (storage Assets, booster pump stations, etc.)

Operations and SCADA

Sampling and monitoring (schedules, locations, procedures, etc.)

Lab
Inspect Racine's distribution system
Storage tank
Interconnection
Onsite Records review
Emergency Response

The Commission inquired as to the possibility of reviewing the findings and final report compiled by the EPA once it was finalized, specifically the cyber security portion. The Utility Director noted the request and confirmed that the findings would be shared with the Commission once the final report was received.

A motion was made by Mayor Mason, seconded by Alder McCarthy, that this file be Received and Filed.

[0142-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of Bid Opening Results for Contract W-25-2, 2025 Water Main Replacement - Phase 1

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: \$952,275 dollars from the 4.7 million approved from the CIP budget for old water main replacement.

The Executive Utility Director is authorized and directed to execute the contract on behalf of the Racine Water Utility. The lowest responsible bidder was Earth X, LLC, with a bid of \$952,275.00.

A motion was made by Mayor Mason, seconded by Alder McCarthy, that this file be Approved.

[0144-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of Bid Opening Results for Contract W-25-3, 2025 Water Main Replacement - Phase 2

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: \$1,248,180 from the 4.7 million approved from the CIP budget for old water main replacement.

The Executive Utility Director is authorized and directed to execute the contract on behalf of the Racine Water Utility. The lowest responsible bidder was Reesman's Excavating & Grading, Inc., with a bid price of \$1,248,180.00. The Commission inquired as to why the bids were coming in lower than the engineer's projected estimates on the contracts, which led to a discussion on the Davis-Bacon wages and how those factor into play with the contracts. The Chief Utility Engineer relayed that the Davis-Bacon wages are not required to be followed for these contracts, as the Utility is using its own fund for these projects. However, in a response to a follow up question, the Chief Engineer responded that the contractors pay comparable wages to their employees, but perhaps save on fringes/benefits. The utility can reach out to the contractors for more information on wages and salaries upon further inquiries.

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Mayor Mason, that this file be Approved.

[0145-25](#)

Subject: Consideration and Possible Action for Hiring a Legal Counsel to Advise the Waterworks Commission

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director provided on an update on the progress of the Interview Panel Committee (comprised of Executive Director Islam, City Attorney Letteney, and Commission President Jorgenson) involved with the selection of a Legal Counsel to advise the Waterworks Commission. The two options presented were candidates from two different firms; one more local in the Milwaukee area, and the other from the northwest part of the state. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of each candidate; weighing in on opinions from the interview committee. All were in agreement about the importance of resolving the main issue at hand of bringing the involved parties to negotiations involving potential changes within the intergovernmental agreements.

A motion was made by Alder McCarthy, seconded by Mayor Mason, that this file be Deferred in order to allow the Interview Panel Committee the opportunity to follow-up with the candidates once more with input from the Commission and thereby empower them to make an informed and agreed upon decision on which candidate to choose as Legal Counsel.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.