



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final Waterworks Commission

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

6:00 PM

Racine Water Utility Conf. Rm.

The meeting was called to order by Waterworks Commission President Jorgenson, at 7:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 6 - John Tate II, Natalia Taft, Cory Mason, Jens Jorgensen, Nick Barootian and Rosalind Thomas

EXCUSED: 2 - Jim Sullivan and Marlo Harmon

[0838-25](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the July 16, 2025, Waterworks Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

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

[0840-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with CDM Smith for Chlorine Conversion Feasibility Study

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Cost of proposal is \$96,963.00.

The Utility Director presented the proposed Agreement for a Chlorine Conversion Feasibility Study with CDM Smith. The main scope of this Agreement consists of a site tour to help gather information that will be used to assess the condition of the existing chlorine system and to develop alternative methods to help improve areas of concern from the US EPA inspection that occurred at the Utility earlier this year, specifically looking for a way to reduce the length of the chlorine gas feed line.

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

[0841-25](#)

Subject: Communication sponsored by Alder Harmon, for Consideration of Developer's Agreement for the Seasons at Spring Street Development Project; FRED-Spring Street HC, LLC (developer)

Recommendation of the Waterworks Commission on 08-20-2025:

To Approve with a Referral to the Finance and Personnel Committee

Recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee on 08-25-2025: That the Developer's Agreement for the Seasons at Spring Street Development Project be approved.

Fiscal Note: The developer pays all costs associated with the installation of the local water main estimated at \$110,000.

The Utility Director presented the Developer's Agreement for the Seasons at Spring Street Development Project

A motion was made by Tate II, seconded by Taft, that this file be Approved with a Referral to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

[0842-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of Proposal from Pinnacle Engineering for Construction-Related Services for the Seasons at Spring Street Development Project

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: The total cost of the proposal is \$20,900 to be paid by the developer.

The Utility Director presented a proposal from the Pinnacle Engineering Group for Construction-Related Services for the Seasons at Spring Street Development Project.

A motion was made by Tate II, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Approved.

[0843-25](#)

Subject: Communication from the Utility Director Regarding an Update on the Taste and Odor Water Complaints

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director updated the Commission on the taste & odor water quality complaints that had been received by city/county residents, noting that the peak of complaints had occurred at the very end of July into the beginning of August. The Utility Director also informed the Commission that Utility staff had been working tirelessly to investigate the cause of the taste/odor issues, which had turned out to be due to the seasonal increase in geosmin and MIB giving a distinct earthy musty smell and taste in the water. These compounds do not pose any health risk to consumers and are released by natural organic matters such as algae and certain bacteria. Water consumers were also reassured that despite the unpleasant aesthetic appeal of the water, it was still safe for consumption. The Utility had posted communication via social media and local news outlets as well as sent letters in the mail throughout this period to keep residents informed and updated on the progress towards treating and reducing the unpleasant odor/taste as well as updating them on preventative measures that are being considered to help alleviate this problem in the future if it should arise.

A motion was made by Taft, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Received and Filed.

[0844-25](#)

Subject: Communication from Utility Director Regarding an Update on the Lead Service Line (LSL) letters sent in August 2025

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented an update on the combined efforts by Utility staff in conjunction with City staff members and the Commission Presidents to coordinate the addition of a supplemental letter that went out to city residents affected by the upcoming LSL replacement projects. The letters were sent specifically to residents who had either lead service lines or galvanized lead service lines in an effort to comply with US EPA requirements, as well as to inform them of the City's initiatives to remove all of the lead lines.

A motion was made by Taft, seconded by Tate II, that this file be Received and Filed.

[0845-25](#)

Subject: Communication and Possible Action Sponsored by Commissioner Mason Regarding City Resident Incentive Pay Differential

Fiscal Note: Potential Impact of \$35,000 to \$45,000 on Wages Budget for 2026.

Commissioner Mason addressed the Commission on this item relaying the intent and desire to bring the Utility onto the same pay incentive system utilized by the City, whereby utility employees who are city residents would receive a 4% increase in their yearly salary.

A motion was made by Mason, seconded by Tate II, that this file be Approved.

[0846-25](#)

Subject: Submission of the Proposed 2026 Operations and Maintenance Budget, and the Proposed 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Plan

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the proposed 2026 Operations and Maintenance Budget, along with the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2026-2035. The proposed budgets will be considered for approval at the September Waterworks Commission Meeting. Commissioner Mason suggested that a line item be added in the 2026 CIP budget of \$5 million for road reconstruction paid through the SDLWP. The Utility Chief Engineer suggested to add an additional \$500,000 to that amount to cover Engineering and non-construction fees. The commission agreed to add an additional \$5.5 million in the 2026 CIP budget.

A motion was made by Taft, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Received and Filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.