



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Waterworks Commission

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 207

The meeting was called to order by Waterworks Commission President, Jens Jorgenson, at 8:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Let the record show that Commissioner Sullivan was present in a non-voting capacity for this meeting, since Commissioner Mason was present.

PRESENT: 5 - Natalia Taft, Cory Mason, Terry McCarthy, Jens Jorgenson and Jim Sullivan

EXCUSED: 3 - John Tate II, Stacy Sheppard and Mollie Jones

[1020-24](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the October 17, 2024, Waterworks Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

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

[1027-24](#)

Subject: Request Approval to Issue "Notice to Proceed" for Ruekert-Mielke to Generate an Engineering Design for Approximately 40,000 L.F. of Old Water Mains to Submit Along with the 2026 Loan Application

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Ruekert-Mielke will complete the proposed Scope of Services for the lump sum fee of \$492,500.

The Water Utility Director presented a proposed scope of services from Ruekert-Mielke to come up with engineering specifications and design plans for replacing 40,000 L.F. of old water mains in conjunction with the expedited lead service line replacements (LSLR's) planned for 2026. As part of the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) final application process due in June 2025, the Utility must have biddable project plans and specifications included with the submission to the DNR.

A motion was made by Mayor Mason, seconded by Vice President Taft, that

this file be Approved.

[1024-24](#)

Subject: Request Approval for "Notice to Proceed" for CDM Smith to Draft a Comprehensive Plan for Replacement of All Lead Service Lines

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: CDM Smith will complete the proposed Scope of Services for the lump sum fee of \$84,215 including project expenses.

The Water Utility Director presented a proposed scope of services by CDM Smith, which will allow them to draft an in-depth, comprehensive plan in accordance with EPA Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, for replacing a significant portion of the City's Lead Service Lines (LSL's) between 2026-2029 in order to avail benefits of principal forgiveness of the SDWLP through Bipartisan Infrastructure Loan (BIL). Other components of the plan include public outreach strategy, identifying funding sources, identifying required ordinances, as well as developing strategic methods for replacement and construction prioritization based on the socio-economic aspects of the various communities involved.

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

[1028-24](#)

Subject: Communication from the Utility Administrative Manager Regarding Budget Expenditures through September 30, 2024

Staff Recommendation: To Receive & File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Highlights of the financial report given by Utility Administrative Manager, Ken Scolaro.

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

[1031-24](#)

Subject: Change Order No. 1 on Contract W-23-10, 2024 Lead Service Replacements - Phase 1, Five Star Energy Services, LLC (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in decrease of \$301,750.00, bringing the total contract amount to \$617,700.00.

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

[0598-24](#)

Subject: Change Order No. 2 on Contract W-21-2, 42" Water Main Replacement Phase 2, Super Excavators (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in an increase of \$67,359.69, bringing the total contract amount to \$5,315,347.69.

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

[0599-24](#)

Subject: Final Payment Request on Contract W-21-2, 42" Water Main Replacement Phase 2, Super Excavators (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract W-21-2 is complete at a final cost of \$5,315,347.69. The contract achieved a 15.56% RWP compliance rate compared to the 20% RWP goal.

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

[1021-24](#)

Subject: Final Payment Request on Contract W-24-1, 2024 Lead Service Replacements - Phase 2, Miller Pipeline (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract W-24-1 is complete at a final cost of \$913,857.21. The Contract achieved a 14.5% RWP compliance rate compared to the 20% RWP goal.

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

[1029-24](#)

Subject: Change Order No. 1 on Contract W-23-8, 2024 Water Main Replacement - Phase 1, Mid City Corporation (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in a decrease of \$77,660.90, bringing the total contract amount to \$1,763,769.10.

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

[1030-24](#)

Subject: Final Payment Request on Contract W-23-8, 2024 Water Main Replacement - Phase 1, Mid City Corporation (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract W-23-8 is complete at a final cost of \$1,763,769.10. The Contract achieved a 1.9% RWP compliance rate, which is significantly below the 20% goal. Due to sufficient efforts made by the Contractor with WRTP to employ RWP-certified workers along with circumstances out of the Contractor's control with no-show workers, no penalty will be imposed.

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

[0920-24](#)

Subject: Communication from the Water Utility Director to Retain a Legal Counsel to Represent the Waterworks Commission Pending Legal Actions

Staff Recommendation: To Defer this Item until the next meeting when City Attorney Letteney is able to be present to participate in this discussion

Fiscal Note: N/A

Discussion ensued regarding the Water Commissioners' desire to look into hiring outside legal counsel specialized in negotiating the Waterworks agreements. City Attorney Scott Letteney informed the Commission that all pending actions regarding the Water Utility had been resolved. Additionally, by City ordinance, the Waterworks Commission shall be represented by the City Attorney's office who may hire outside counsel. It was motioned that the Water Utility Director, Waterworks Commission President, and the City Attorney consult together to come up with potential outside candidates to interview, and then bring their recommendations before the Commission for discussion and approval.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.