

PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD MINUTES

January 23, 2023

The Public Utility Board met in regular session on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 1:02 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room located on the Upper Level of City Hall. Roll call was taken, and members of the Board present were: John Bell, Whit McCoskrie, Richard Vaughn, and Charles Williams. Also present were: Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities; Candy Johnson, Interim Chief Financial Officer; Lauren EH Nelson, Council Liaison; and Trisha Reno, Utility Administrative Assistant/OM Coordinator. Absent were Lowe Cannell, Mayor; and Renee Tyler, Director of Administration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 12, 2022 Board meeting were presented for approval.

Motion was offered by Whit McCoskrie and seconded by Charles Williams to approve the minutes of December 12, 2022, as presented. Motion carried with four members of the Board voting in favor.

SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION:

a. Panhandle Lawsuit

Superintendent of Utilities Darrell Dunlap updated the Board on the Panhandle lawsuit win in December. Mr. Dunlap noted that an appeal had been filed on December 16th stating that its basis was due to fees on rates and that the rate of return was incorrect. Darrell stated that further updates will be provided as they become available.

b. Purchase of Gas

Darrell Dunlap discussed with the Board the cost of heating fuel during extreme weather would be approximately \$500,000 and that there is currently no grant funding available for such. Superintendent Dunlap noted that the plan of buying short term gas did work. Darrell has informed IMGGA that as of January 23, 2023 the City would be locking in on the first of the month instead of daily.

John Bell reminded the Board of Candy Johnson, Interim Chief Financial Officer's presence to present the financial report for December 2022. The Utility Financial Report for December 2022 was presented to the Board for review and discussion. Candy noted that the figures were not final numbers and were subject to change due to finalizing outstanding entries.

Interim Chief Financial Officer stated that Gas was down \$246,000, Water was down \$2,000, Sewer was up \$75,000, Electric was down \$149,000, and Solid Waste is up \$12,000. She also noted that the annual audit is scheduled for May 2023.

After some review and discussion, motion was offered by Charles Williams and seconded by Whit McCoskrie to accept the Financial Report for December 2022, as presented. Motion carried with four members of the Board voting in favor.

c. Appointment of Robert Algieri

Council Liaison Lauren EH Nelson discussed how she believed the Board should look into each candidate more thoroughly before accepting nominations. John Bell questioned what the City of Fulton Charter stated about the Board nomination process.

Renee Tyler, Director of Administration entered the room at 1:23pm.

Lauren EH Nelson asked that the nomination of Algiers to the Utility Board be discussed during a City Council work session. She also suggested that a method to review Board applicants be created so that all Boards can utilize the process.

John Bell questioned if the method to review a candidate could be located in the City of Fulton Charter. Renee Tyler, Director of Administration retrieved a City of Fulton Charter book and noted Article VI, Section 6.1 located on page 9, number (i) was the only section pertaining to the UBoard:

A Board of Public Utilities. Such Board shall have the authority as provided in RSMo 91.540, with regard to rate setting, and said Board shall sit in advisement with the Mayor and Director of Administration in selection of a Superintendent of the Utility Department. The Board shall act to set all technical policy and review all technical operational activity not inconsistent with this charter or the ordinances of the City. It shall also have such other duties and responsibilities as assigned from time to time by the City Council, Mayor, or Director of Administration.

A motion was offered by Charles Williams and seconded by Whit McCoskrie to recommend the City Council add the following verbiage to the City of Fulton Charter: "Before the Mayor confirms an appointment of an applicant to a Board/ Commission that Board/ Commission may reserve the right to interview or question the applicant as needed". Motion passed with four members of the Board voting in favor.

d. Christopher 2 Sewer

Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities updated the board on the pending sewer issue with the Christopher 2 Subdivision, which is outside the City limits of Fulton. He noted that there is a grant through DNR that the City is applying for to cover the costs of a study that would determine what would be in the best interests of the City. He then stated that the 2nd grant application would cover construction cost. Darrell also noted estimated costs the City would incur without the grant would be \$200,000 for pump station/ force main and 2,000 ft of pipe to connect to the City.

A motion was offered by Whit McCoskrie and seconded by Richard Vaughn to move forward with the feasibility study grant application for the sewer of Christopher 2 subdivision. Motion passed with four members of the Board voting in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no need for an executive session at this Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Board, motion was offered by John Bell and seconded by Charles Williams to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with four members of the Board voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Reno,
Utility Administrative Assistant/ OM Coordinator