



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Water and Light Advisory Board

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
8:00 AM

Regular

701 E Broadway
Conference Room
1A/1B

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fracica called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Staff: Sarah Talbert, Assistant Director Utilities-Rates and Fiscal Planning; David Sorrell, Utilities Director; Erin Keys, Acting Assistant Director-Electric; Todd McVicker, Acting Utility Services Manager; Steve Hunt, Assistant Director-Water; Matt Nestor, Public Information Specialist; Earl Krauss, Assistant City Counselor; Ron Wyble, Electric Production Superintendent; Deepayan Debnath, Economist Supervisor; Leslie Nguyen, Fellow from Federal Department of Energy; Christina Weaver, Assistant Technician II

Public: Jim Windsor, Mike Murphy

Present: 5 - Thomas Jensen, David Switzer, Gregg Coffin, Philip Fracica and Jennifer Coleman

II. INTRODUCTIONS

A round robin was done for introductions.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Philip Fracica made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted with a second by Mr. Tom Jensen. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 14, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with a motion by Mr. Phillip Fracica and a second by Mr. Tom Jensen. Motion passed unanimously.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Draft 08 14 24](#)

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS as available

a) Financial Reports

Ms. Talbert explained that overall electric revenue in the month of July 2024 was up due to the monthly billed usage being higher (~2.6%) compared to July 2023. Overall revenues through the month of July 2024 were up due to the electric rate increase that was approved and effective in July 2023 (3 months of fiscal year). Revenues were

higher due to the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) rate implemented in October 2023. Salaries and wages were higher due to wage increases that the City Manager proposed with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget and compression pay adjustments in June 2024. Materials, supplies and power purchase were higher due to additional transmission expenses that were being paid to Sikeston and a large weekly payment (~\$2.8 million) that was made to MISO for the week of the cold snap. July 2024 represents 83.33% of the budget year. Electric operating revenues were currently 83.63% of the budget. Same time last year at 84.65% of the budget. Electric operating expenses were currently at 73.77% of budget. Same time last year at 68.14% of the budget.

Overall water revenues in the month of July 2024 were down due to the monthly billed usage being lower (~7%) compared to July 2023. Overall revenues through the month of July 2024 were up due to the water base fee increase that took effect November 1, 2023. Salaries and wages were higher due to wage increases that the City Manager proposed with the FY 2024 budget and compression pay adjustments in June 2024. Services and miscellaneous were higher due to increased sludge hauling and street repairs (contractual) for water main breaks. July 2024 represents 83.33% of the budget year. Water operating revenues were currently at 80.29% of budget. Same time last year at 79.91% of the budget. Water operating expenses were currently at 66.70% of budget same time last year at 71.91% of the budget.

Attachments: [Monthly financial statement comments -July 2024](#)
[Electric Statements-July 2024](#)
[Water Statements-July 2024](#)
[Summary Change in Billed usage for Water and Electric](#)

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

a) Monthly Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Report

Ms. Talbert explained that staff was forecasting an increase of \$6,908,830 power cost over the forecasted FY24 (October 2023) level. This was mainly due to additional transmission costs that had occurred for Sikeston and would continue through the remainder of the fiscal year, until May 2025. The purchase power costs continue to increase compared to the costs that were forecasted due to Locational Marginal Pricing (LMP) prices in MISO being lower than anticipated. As of June 2024, energy sales in FY24 were forecasted to be 36,146,779 kWh less than the October 2023 forecast. Mild temperatures in October through June resulted in less energy sold for the first half of the fiscal year. The PCA in October and November 2023 were credited to utility customer bills; however, starting in December and for each month since the utility customers had been seeing a charge to recover the transmission costs for Sikeston for the entire fiscal year that were originally only in the forecast through December 2023, along with recouping larger than forecasted purchase power expenses due to LMP prices in MISO being lower.

Attachments: [PCA Board Report -August 2024](#)

b) Utility Customer Survey Questions

Utility Customer Survey Questions proposed by the Water and Light Advisory Board (WLAB) were discussed at length. Questions one, two, three, and seven had proposed edits to make the questions more understandable for the general public. Questions four and six had been removed from the list of proposed questions. Mr. David Switzer had a list of ideas for additional questions that he would send out via email. All of the questions still needed to be finalized. Ms. Talbert informed everyone that about 75 percent of the surveys would go to Residential locations and about 25 percent would be sent to Commercial locations.

Attachments: [Draft Questions for Citizen Survey](#)

c) Council Item Update

Ms. Talbert discussed items from the City Council Meeting that occurred on August 19, 2024. Public Hearing 28-24 was continued to September 3, 2024. Council Bill 168-24, Resolution 140-24, Resolution 146-24, Resolution 148-24, and Resolution 149-24 were approved. Council Bill 179-24 went through a second read. Report 56-24 and Report 58-24 were discussed with no conclusion. Ms. Talbert also discussed items from the September 3, 2024 City Council Meeting. Public Hearing 28-24 and Council Bill 179-24 were continued from the August 19, 2024 Council meeting. There was a Public Hearing proposing addition of one (1) new 69 kV bus at the Bolstad Substation to provide for generation interconnection to the Boone Stephens solar facility. Two Council Bills were amended: Ordinance No. 025735 to correct a scrivener's error as it related to the large commercial tier one summer water usage rate, and the FY 2024 Annual Budget for fourth quarter appropriation of funds. There were two outstanding items for council consideration: Renewable Ordinance Revisions and Transmission Line Discussion.

Attachments: [Council Item Updates - August 2024](#)

d) Future Training Opportunities

There were future training opportunities with the American Public Power Association (APPA), most likely two trainings would be offered. This would be discussed more at the next meeting on October 9, 2024.

Attachments: [2022-2023 APPA In-House Course Catalog](#)

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

a) Midwest Energy Initiative (MEI) Conference Update

No update on the Midwest Energy Initiative Conference at this time.

b) WLAB 2024/2025 Goals

The FY24 WLAB Goals and Objectives would be finalized at the next meeting on October 9, 2024.

Attachments: [WLAB 2024 Goals Status 912024](#)

c) Rolling Calendar

The WLAB unanimously agreed to change that the public meeting agenda will be drafted at the meeting on October 9, 2024.

Attachments: [WL Rolling Agenda September](#)

VIII. PUBLIC EMAIL COMMENTS

None.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

None.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 9, 2024

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Phillip Fracica and a second by Mr. Tom Jensen. Motion passed unanimously.

To submit questions or comments to the Water & Light Advisory Board, please email wlabpublic@como.gov.

All media inquiries should be submitted to Matt Nestor at Matthew.Nestor@como.gov.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: Due to cybersecurity concerns, flash drives and other media devices are no longer permitted for delivering files or presentation materials. A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload. (Effective Jan. 1, 2023)