



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Water and Light Advisory Board

Wednesday, December 13, 2023
9:30 AM

Regular

701 E Broadway
Conference Room
1A/1B

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Coffin called the meeting to order at 9:30 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; Matt Nestor, Public Information Specialist; David Storvick, Engineering Manager; Steve Hunt, Assistant Director of Water Utilities; Madison Jones-Smith, Administrative Technician I; Aubrey Turner, Public Information Specialist; Ron Wyble, Power Production Superintendent

Council Members: Betsy Peters, Nick Foster

Public: Jim Windsor, Mike Murphy

Present: 5 - Thomas Jensen, David Switzer, Gregg Coffin, Philip Fracica and Amanda Jacobs

II. INTRODUCTIONS

A round robin was done for introductions.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. David Switzer made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted with a second by Mr. Phillip Fracica. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Amanda Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted with a second by Mr. David Switzer. Motion passed unanimously.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Draft 11 08 23](#)

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS as available

a) Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Talbert stated that the month-to-date electric operating revenues were up in October compared to last year as well as Operating Expenses. She explained that the year-to-date numbers were also up compared to last year. She stated that the month-to-date water operating revenues were also up in October compared to last year as well as the operating expenses. The year-to-date numbers for water operating expenses and revenues were also up in October compared to last year. She discussed the October 2023 water budget to actuals and electric budget to actuals and explained the findings as

well as explained the percentages in which they were below budget or above. Ms. Talbert also showed a chart of the monthly and annual water usage billed as well as the monthly and annual electric usage billed. The water usage was down by 15,000 CCFs. The electric usage was down 2.5 kilowatts. In a 13-month rolling comparison, the electric operating expenses and PILOT were up in October compared to last year's numbers. The water operating expenses and PILOT were also up in October compared to last year.

Attachments: [Electric Statements-October 2023](#)
[Water Statements-October 2023](#)
[Summary Change in Billed usage for Water and Electric](#)

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

a) FY 2024 Final O & M

Ms. Talbert discussed the Electric Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Expense Budget, opening up the floor for questions which there were none. Ms. Talbert also discussed the Water O & M Expense Budget and opened up the floor for any questions of which there were none. Ms. Talbert provided the water and electric budgets for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 which was compared side by side to the fiscal year budgets of 2022 and 2023. Ms. Talbert then discussed the Electric Revenue Budget and the Water Revenue Budget and stated that Council had adopted each budget for fiscal year 2024.

Attachments: [FY 2024 Electric O&M Expense Budget](#)
[FY 2024 Electric Revenue Budget](#)
[FY 2024 Water & Electric Budget](#)
[FY 2024 Water O&M Expense Budget](#)
[FY 2024 Water Revenue Budget](#)

b) FY 2024 Final CIP Budget

Ms. Talbert discussed the annual and five year Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's) budget for both electric and water. The floor was opened up for discussion and Mr. Coffin stated he would like each project's statuses to be shown on the documents. Ms. Talbert stated that she could add that to the document for next time.

Attachments: [FY 2024 Electric CIP Budget](#)
[FY 2024 Water CIP Budget](#)

c) Fiscal Year Annual Usage Reports

Ms. Talbert stated that the FY23 Water Peak Days each month were higher in June and July of last year, but were down this year. Ms. Talbert also stated that the FY 2023 actuals were higher up near the upper confidence level of the forecasted values. For the FY 2023 Water Pumped to Distribution by Month was higher in June of this year whereas it was higher in July of last year. Ms. Talbert stated that the actuals for this were lower in July of this year compared to last year, but then went up in August of this year. Last year, however, the numbers were higher in July. It was then brought forward to start adding in last year's numbers to the chart for comparison and Ms. Talbert stated she could try it for next time. Ms. Talbert also provided and discussed the Historic Summer Volume to Columbia System for Water and Electric.

Attachments: [FY23 - Annual Water & Electric Data](#)

d) Annual Water Tier Report

Ms. Talbert stated that the FY 2023 Water Tier Structure Report was up about 170,000 compared to last year. Ms. Talbert also discussed the Summer Cooling Degree Days Since 2010. Ms. Talbert stated that the Number of Days with Zero Rainfall by Year was higher last year compared to this year due to the drought that had occurred the previous year. Ms. Talbert then provided and discussed the Total Summer Precipitation by Year which was 3.73 inches lower last year than this year.

Attachments: [FY23 Water Tier Report](#)
[Summer Cooling Degree Days](#)
[Summer Days with Zero Rainfall by Year](#)
[Summer Precipitation by Year](#)

e) Council Item Update

Ms. Talbert discussed some updates from the last 3 city council meetings. She noted that at the November 6th meeting., Council Bill 253-23 authorizing the construction of the McBaine Water Treatment Plant upgrade was approved for Phase One, Council Bill 255-23 amending Chapter 27 of the City Code to repeal Sec. 27-169 relating to the Solar One Program and adopting a new section for a Community Solar Program was approved, Council Bill 254-23 Authorizing Construction of a southeast water pumping station project was approved, and Resolution 169-23 authorizing form of service agreements with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. for compliance with tariffs regarding the transmission of electric power from the latan II power plant was approved. Ms. Talbert stated that at the Pre-Council Meeting on November 20th The Energy Authority's (TEA's) Virtual Presentation and the 100% Renewable by 2030 study was discussed and the results were shared. She noted that at the regular meeting that night Council Bill 292-23 authorizing a joint funding agreement for water resource investigations with the U.S. Department of the Interior was introduced with the first read. She also noted that Resolution 172-23 authorizing the installation of street lights on Parkade Boulevard, Dartmouth, Green Meadows Road, and Hanover Boulevard was approved. Ms. Talbert noted that at the December 4th meeting Council Bill 292-23 was approved. She stated that the outstanding items for council consideration of the Annual WLAB report and FY 2024 goals would be submitted as a separate report to the council on January 16, 2024.

Attachments: [City Council Item Updates - November 2023](#)
[City Renewable Energy Ordinance](#)

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS**a) Follow Up on Rate Affordability Metrics Meeting**

Mr. Switzer stated he was talking with Mr. Manny Teodoro to coordinate a time when he could come and give his presentation on Rate Affordability Metrics. The board mentioned that they would love to have him come and give the presentation. Mr. Switzer stated that he was going to continue to find ways to make rates for utilities more affordable in the long run to ease the load off some lower income households.

b) WLAB Annual Report and FY 2024 WLAB Goals

Ms. Talbert provided and discussed the Annual Report as well as the FY 2024 WLAB goals which were also discussed last meeting. Ms. Talbert asked if there was anything to add to the goals or the report of which there were none. The decision was made to then submit the report and the goals to city council for consideration.

Attachments: [FY23 WLAB Annual Report](#)

c) Follow Up on EV Training

Mr. Coffin stated that he thought the presentation on Electric Vehicles (EV's) was very informative and a great introduction into the potential of EVs. He stated that he felt the board should discuss the training further throughout the year and start really thinking about strategies in order to start planning a course of action.

d) Rolling Calendar

Ms. Talbert provided and discussed the WLAB Rolling Calendar. It was decided that on the 29th of December there would be a meeting to discuss the agenda for the January 10th meeting. It was also discussed that treatment plant updates, financials, renewables, training ideas for the new year, and a potential field trip to the McBaine Water Treatment Plant were added to the agenda for the January 10th meeting.

Attachments: [WL Rolling Agenda December](#)

VIII. PUBLIC EMAIL COMMENTS

Ms. Talbert discussed two public emails submitted to the WLAB Public email. Ms. Amparan submitted an email attaching the most recent proposal from the 100% Renewable by 2030 Coalition. She stated if there were any questions or need for discussion to reach out. Mr. Parker also submitted an email discussing a potential for Columbia Water and Light to collaborate with Sikeston on a few projects. Mr. Sorrell stated that he had a call scheduled for January with Sikeston on the subject.

Attachments: [WLABPublic 100% by 2030 Coalition Proposal 2023 - Oct 31](#)
[WLABPublic 100% by 2030 Coalition Proposal for WLAB review](#)
[WLABPublic Sikeston](#)

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Windsor stated that he felt that 100% renewable by 2030 was unrealistic. Mr. Windsor stated that 100% renewable was fiscally irresponsible to say it was a bad idea, but he felt that the City shouldn't buy power that they do not need. He also stated that there needed to be another look at the base charge for utilities so that it does not impact low income households. Mr. Windsor also stated he would like to see an electric tier report like the water report. Mr. Switzer discussed lead replacement.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

January 10, 2024

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m. on a motion by Mr. David Switzer with a second by Mr. Phillip Fracica.

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)