

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

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Location: Online Attendance: GoToMeeting ID 740-418-717

Members Present: Citizen Member David Erdman (Chair), Alderperson Ben Heili (Vice-Chair), Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Citizen Member John Kallas, Mayor Tim Swadley, Citizen Member Dustin Thoren, Alderperson Rachel Venegas

Excused: None

Absent: None

Others Present: Ms. Megan Cahill of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, Stoughton Director of Finance & Comptroller Jamin Friedl, Ms. Vicki Hewitt of WPPI Energy, Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops, Mr. Mike Peters of WPPI Energy, WPPI Energy Services Manager Amy Wanek, Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss

Call to Order: Outgoing Chairperson Erdman called the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A moment of silence was observed to recognize Brian Scheel, a Stoughton Utilities Electric Lineman that recently passed away.

Utilities Committee Consent Agenda: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Committee consent agenda items.

Future meetings of the Committee were discussed. Current plans are to hold the upcoming June meeting virtually, and July meeting will have a hybrid approach with both in person and virtual attendance offered.

Motion by Hirsch, the motion seconded by Kallas, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Draft Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
- b. Stoughton Utilities April Payments Due List Report
- c. Stoughton Utilities March Financial Summary
- d. Stoughton Utilities March Statistical Report
- e. Stoughton Utilities April Activities Report
- f. Communications

The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Election of the Utilities Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: Motion by Hirsch to nominate Citizen Member David Erdman to the position of Stoughton Utilities Committee Chairperson, the motion seconded by Thoren. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Motion by Hirsch to nominate citizen Member John Kallas to the position of Stoughton Utilities Committee Vice-Chairperson, the motion seconded by Thoren. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Election of the Utilities Committee Liaison and Alternate Liaison to the Stoughton Common Council: Motion by Hirsch to nominate Alderperson Rachel Venegas to the position of Utilities Committee Liaison to the Stoughton Common Council, the motion seconded by Thoren. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

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Motion by Hirsch to nominate Alderperson Ben Heili to the position of Alternate Liaison to the Stoughton Common Council, the motion seconded by Thoren. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Selection of the Utilities Committee Date and Time: Motion by Venegas, the motion seconded by Thoren, to designate the monthly meeting date to remain the Monday after the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Stoughton Common Council, and the meeting time to be set as 5:30 p.m. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously 7 to 0.

The chair moved several New Business items to be discussed prior to Old Business items to accommodate meeting guests.

Presentation by WPPI Energy: *Shining Through: Your Utility and Joint Action:* Stoughton Utilities staff introduced Mr. Mike Peters, President & CEO of WPPI Energy, who provided a presentation highlighting the value of public power in our community. This presentation focused on how during the pandemic public power continued to deliver reliable, affordable power, and forward-thinking services that Stoughton Utilities customers count on. Additionally, the presentation noted some current Stoughton Utilities, WPPI Energy, and industrywide developments, and discussed ways that joint action supports local efforts and priorities. Discussion followed.

Stoughton Utilities 2020 Audit Reports and Management Letter: City of Stoughton staff introduced Ms. Megan Cahill from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, who presented the Stoughton Utilities 2020 Audit Reports and Management Letter. Discussion followed.

Motion by Heili, the motion seconded by Hirsch, to acknowledge receipt of the Stoughton Utilities 2020 audit reports and management letter and recommend the Stoughton Common Council accept receipt of the audit reports and management letter, and adopt the accompanying resolution. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Status of the Utilities Committee recommendation(s) to the Stoughton Common Council: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the following items from the Stoughton Utilities Committee that were approved and/or placed on file by the Stoughton Common Council:

Consent Agenda:

1. Draft Minutes of the March 22, 2021 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
2. Stoughton Utilities March Payments Due List Report
3. Stoughton Utilities February Financial Summary
4. Stoughton Utilities February Statistical Report

Business:

1. Partial Release of a Platted Storm Water Management Easement and the Partial Release (From 12' to 10') of a Platted Utility Easement on Lot 27 of Westview Ridge (2233 Hilldale Cir)
2. Recording of a Correction Affidavit referencing the Partial Release of a Platted Storm Water Management Easement and the Partial Release (From 12' to 10') of a Platted Utility Easement on Lot 27 of Westview Ridge (2233 Hilldale Cir)

Discussion followed.

Status Update: Lead Service Line Replacement Program: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed recent efforts that have occurred in preparation for the planned 2021 citywide lead service line replacement project of public and privately-owned lead service lines.

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Staff discussed that the 2021 Lead Water Service Replacements Project will be constructed by Five Star Energy Services, LLC. Since the project award, staff has held numerous discussions with the contractor as they begin their preparation work for the project. Staff also informed the committee that the in-home efforts to locate lead service lines has completed, and staff has been conducting further investigations by excavating service lines in the terrace to determine the service line material.

Staff discussed our public outreach and education efforts, as well as how information will continue to be shared with residents and highlighted through social and local media. Updates regarding the ongoing construction project will be posted to stoughtonutilities.com/lead and stoughtonutilities.com/construction as they are made available by the contractor. Discussion followed.

Status Update: Customer Collections: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the current status of customer collections following the resumption of residential electric service disconnections that accrued during the 17-month residential disconnection moratorium implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the status of current customer delinquencies.

As of May 1, 2021, current 30-90 day delinquencies are \$37,999 and 90+ day delinquencies are \$43,706, down 56% and 55% respectively from balances as of April 1, 2021. 30-90 day delinquencies remain up 74% from this time in the pre-pandemic year 2019, and 90+ day delinquencies remain up 136%. During the month of April, 681 notices of pending disconnection were mailed, and only 45 service disconnections occurred, as the vast majority of delinquent customers made payment or contacted SU to create a deferred payment agreement. Discussion followed.

Stoughton Electric Utility Annual Report filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin: Stoughton Utilities and City of Stoughton staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Electric Utility Annual Report filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Discussion followed.

Stoughton Water Utility Annual Report filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin: Stoughton Utilities and City of Stoughton staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Water Utility Annual Report filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Discussion followed.

Utilities Committee Future Agenda Items: Staff informed the committee that upcoming meeting topics include the annual drinking water consumer confidence report (CCR), the annual wastewater collection system maintenance annual report (CMAR), and updates on the lead service line replacement program. Discussion followed.

Adjournment: Being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Brian R. Hoops

Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director