

Lake Geneva Utility Commission Minutes
Lake Geneva Utility Commission Meeting
Monday August 18, 2025, 4:00pm
Council Chambers, City Hall – 626 Geneva St

Call Meeting to Order – Lyon called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Roll Call – Lyon, Krause, Smith, Fesenmaier, De Angelis, Binn & Marquardt

Staff in Attendance – Gajewski & Busch

Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Statutes §19.84(2), limited to items on this agenda except for public hearing items. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes.

Brian Pollard from Fairwyn spoke in favor of item #10, and said he would be available if there were any questions.

Approve Utility Commission Minutes from July 21, 2025 as prepared and distributed.

Binn/De Angelis motion to approve. Passed unanimously.

Acknowledgement of Correspondence

None

Approval of July 2025 Financials

Smith/Binn motion to approve. Passed unanimously.

Approval of July 2025 Bills

Marquardt/De Angelis motion to approve. Passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Gajewski reviewed the submitted Director's report.

Discussion/Action on request to write off uncollectable bulk water sales due from TeraCom Inc.

Gajewski briefed the Commission on the history of the debt and why it is deemed uncollectable. Fesenmaier/Binn motion to write off the uncollectable bulk water sales due from Teracom Inc. Approved unanimously.

Discussion/Action regarding proposed water and sewer utility improvements for Symphony Bay Phase 8 and the authorization to issue an Owner Letter of Approval

Gajewski reported that the detailed engineering plans for all phases of public improvements in phase 8 were submitted in late July. Staff and the City Engineer have reviewed the plans and made comments, and a meeting with the developer has already been held to go over the notes. Gajewski is looking for approval to issue the Owner of Letter of Approval as soon as all the noted items from staff & the City Engineer have been addressed.

Binn/De Angelis motion to authorize the issuance of the Owner Letter of Approval for the water and sewer improvements proposed for phase 8 of Symphony Bay, contingent on all requested plan revisions made by the Utility Director and Engineer have been completed. Passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action on Payment Application #3 for the Big Foot Lift Station Force Main Replacement Project submitted by PTS Contractors

Gajewski said the amount is \$11,586.58 and there could be one more request between now and December. The warranty period expires at the end of December.

Fesenmaier/Binn motion to approve Payment Application #3 for the Big Foot Lift Station Force Main Replacement Project as submitted by PTS Contractors. Passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action regarding Professional Services Agreement with MSA Professional Services for general engineering service for Water and Wastewater Utilities

Gajewski gave the history of working with MSA and said this contract would be like having them on retainer and then they would bill us on a time & material basis. Fesenmaier noted that the city used MSA for the Pine Tree/Marianne Terrace project and were very happy with their services on what was a difficult project.

Fesenmaier/Binn motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with MSA Professional Services for General Engineering Services for the Water and Wastewater Utility. Approved unanimously.

Discussion/Action regarding authorizing submittal of Community Water Fluoridation Equipment Grant application – WI Dept. Health Services

Gajewski reported that the deadline for this grant is September 12 which is before the next Utility Commission meeting so although he doesn't have the completed application right now, he would like approval to be able to submit one before the deadline. The grant would allow us to upgrade the non-conforming fluoridation equipment that was noted in our WDNR sanitary survey this year. The estimated cost of the upgrades would be approximately \$7,500 and this is a non-matching grant. Gajewski would complete and submit the grant application.

Fesenmaier/Binn motion to authorize the submittal of the community water fluoridation equipment grant application and receipt. Passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action regarding Chloride Source Reduction Measure – Chloride Efficiency Customer Incentive Program

Gajewski explained that we are required to monitor chloride levels in our effluent and the limit set by our permit is 250mg/l. We have historically never met this limit but this year the WDNR issued a Notice of Noncompliance which calls for corrective measures. We have had a rebate program since the early 2000's based on customers switching their water softeners from a timed unit to an on-demand unit, however, technological advances mean that on demand units are now the norm. He has revised the rebate policy and is proposing rebate tiers which he outlined in the Directors report. Discussion was had on how customers with water softeners impact our chloride levels and whether we can determine how many customers have water softeners and use this data to decide how much money needs to be invested in a rebate program. Discussion was had on available options such as passing an ordinance that requires only high efficiency softeners be installed, but choices like that come down to enforceability. Gajewski said installing a reverse osmosis system at the plant, which would solve the problem, would cost approximately \$10 million. Discussion was had on how we can inform our customers about any incentive programs we implement and Gajewski said we can utilize the message area of our newly formatted utility bills as well as make announcements at the Committee of the Whole meetings, social media platforms and our website. Discussion was had on what we know about other communities and what their limits are and what they do to meet them. If we were able to discharge to surface water, the chloride limits are 400mg/l which we would be able to meet. Williams Bay soften their water using lime and it is estimated to cost around \$5 million to implement a system like that plus there would be long-term operational costs. Gajewski said if we can get customers to utilize the rebate program and install their own equipment, we would have no equipment to maintain ourselves. Discussion was had on new building developments and whether we can require newly built homes to install on demand softener units. This again comes down to enforcement and making sure the appropriate permits are issued and inspections performed.

Gajewski will continue to work on the rebate program.

No action taken.

Adjourn

De Angelis/Binn motion to adjourn 4:52pm. Passed unanimously.

/s/ J Busch

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY
THE LAKE GENEVA UTILITY COMMISSION**

