

Lake Geneva Utility Commission Minutes
Lake Geneva Utility Commission Meeting
Monday June 17, 2024 4:00pm
Council Chambers, City Hall – 626 Geneva St

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON

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

Roll Call – Lyon, Howell, Fesenmaier, Nord & Binn Excused: Krause & Stanczak

Staff in Attendance – Gajewski & Busch

Zoom Attendance – Joe DeYoung, MSA Professional Services & Jessica Bahr, WI Power & Light

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.

Peg Esposito, 124 Darwin St, spoke to item #10 to thank Alliant Energy for looking at various different options to meet their expansion needs. She also said that she hopes the WI DOT Highway 50 project can be combined with the Utility's project to make it less disruptive (Item #9).

Approve Utility Commission Minutes from May 20, 2024, as prepared and distributed
Binn/Fesenmaier motion to approve. Passed 5-0.

Acknowledgement of Correspondence
None

Approval of May 2024 Financials
Howell/Binn motion to approve. Passed 5-0.

Approval of May 2024 Bills
Binn/Howell motion to approve. Passed 5-0.

Director's Report
Gajewski added to the submitted Director's report that the Big Foot Lift Station project has now been submitted to SEWRPC and so he is hopeful that this project will be brought before the Utility Commission for approval in August. Discussion was had about where bids for the Utility Commission are opened.
Binn/Howell motion to approve the Director's Report. Approved 5-0.

Discussion/Action on the scope of services for the design and bidding of utility improvements along STH 50

Gajewski reported that at the most recent staff group meeting with WI DOT & MSA Professional Services, the WI DOT informed us that in keeping with their routine protocol, they are requesting that any utility improvements are completed before their project starts. Gajewski said that after conferring with Joe DeYoung from MSA, the plan is to shore up the expected timeline for utility improvements and then ask for reconsideration by WI DOT. In the meantime, to keep things moving along, the scope of services being provided by MSA includes a possible reduction in fees if the project is revised from two bidding projects (with DOT) to one project (bidding on our own ahead of the DOT). Joe DeYoung appeared by Zoom and said that this is really the first curveball being thrown by the DOT and ideally the best-case scenario is still to work in conjunction with them, but we have to be ready to move ahead without them. Discussion was had on whether the DOT

have a firm timeline yet. DeYoung said they are expecting to bid in August/September 2026 with construction occurring in 2027. There is always the possibility that it could be pushed back but it's doubtful. Discussion was had on what staff need from the Utility Commission at this point and Gajewski replied that staff request approval of the scope of services in order to continue moving forward.

Binn/Fesenmaier motion to approve the scope of services provided by MSA Professional Services for the design and bidding of utility improvements along STH 50. Passed 5-0.

Discussion/Action on the proposed acquisition of land by Wisconsin Power & Light Company (Alliant Energy)

Gajewski explained that this is being brought in front of the Commission because the parcel in question is co-deeded between the city and the utility. Alliant Energy are looking to acquire a small portion of the parcel that is directly adjacent to their existing substation. Staff do not expect there to be any future impact to the Utility and fully support the acquisition.

Howell/Binn motion to approve the property acquisition requested by Wisconsin Power & Light Company and to recommend to the City Council that they also support the acquisition. Passed 5-0.

Discussion/Action on the potential award of the Wastewater Utility Exterior Building Painting Project

No discussion.

Binn/Howell motion to award the Wastewater Utility Exterior Building Painting Project to Porta-Painting. Passed 5-0.

Discussion/Action on the potential award of the Wastewater Utility Headworks & Digester Building Painting Project

No discussion

Binn/Nord motion to award the Wastewater Utility Headworks & Digester Building Painting Project to Porta-Painting. Passed 5-0.

Discussion/Action on the 2023 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report & Resolution 2024-02

Gajewski explained that this is an annual report that measures performance of the Wastewater Utility and is required to be approved by the Utility Commission and then filed with the WI DNR. The report shows that we do have an ongoing issue with chlorides and as we work on eliminating I&I in the system, this actually makes chlorides worse since as the saying goes, the solution to pollution is dilution and we are doing the opposite. Discussion was had on Milwaukee's system of combining sewage and storm water. One of the reasons for eliminating I&I in our system is that reducing clear water infiltration increases the capacity for wastewater treatment. This is important as the city increases in size. It's also a waste of resources to be treating clear water.

Binn/Lyon motion to approve the 2023 CMAR and resolution 2024-02. Passed 5-0.

Update on PFAS sampling and 3M & DuPont class action lawsuits

Gajewski reminded the Commission that earlier this year City Council made the decision not to formally opt out of the class action lawsuit and there is now a filing date deadline to opt in. In order to opt in, there is a requirement to perform PFAS source water sampling at each of the groundwater wells. The results from those samples are now in and Gajewski informed the Commission of the results. The WI DNR does not have regulatory enforceable limits at this time but when they do, it will be a rolling average. There have been lawsuits filed against the EPA claiming that they have failed to fully consider financial impacts when requiring PFAS treatment. Discussion was had on where the contaminants come from, the levels being reported in parts per trillion and the high cost and procedural requirements of testing for these particular contaminants. No action taken, discussion only.

Lyon/Binn motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session specifically regarding the requested amendments to the Host Tower lease with AT&T

The Commission convened into closed session on a roll call vote at 4:33pm.

Howell/Binn motion to return to open session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(2) and take action on any items in closed session

The Commission returned to open session on a roll call vote at 4:46pm.

Lyon/Howell motion to decline the proposed amendments to the Host Tower lease with AT&T.
Passed 5-0.

Adjourn

Fesenmaier/Binn motion to adjourn at 4:47pm. Passed 5-0.

/s/ J Busch

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