

**City of Lodi Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of June 6, 2023**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Rich Stevenson, Eric Hansen, Mike Goethel

Staff Present: Brenda Ayers, James Lincoln, Jennifer Sweeney

Others: Karen Hudson

**2. Meeting Etiquette**

**3. Public Input** None

**4. Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2023**

**Motion** (Hansen, Goethel) to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2023 meeting. Vote- Ayes (Hansen, Goethel, Stevenson). **Motion carried.**

**5. Financials**

No discussion

**6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Approval of the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)**

There was an unknown issue in the waste water sewer that caused a spike in ammonia. The waste water operators investigated but could not determine the cause. However, the levels did not exceed acceptable amounts.

**Motion** (Hansen, Goethel) to recommend to Common Council approval of the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report. Roll Call Vote: Aye (Hansen, Stevenson, Goethel); Nay (0). **Motion carried.**

**7. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Request from a Property Owner for a Street Light on Elm**

The committee moved this item earlier on the agenda. It followed item 4. Lincoln stated there's no electrical in this area. Electrical needs to be installed down the block and a pole would need to be set mid-block. Lincoln estimates the cost to run electrical and install the pole would be about \$3,500. The city would pay for the cost of an additional streetlight. Lincoln suggested swapping out the arms on the existing streetlights to see if it alleviates the issue. The committee would like to investigate their options prior to installing an additional streetlight.

**8. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Staff Wages and Retention**

Staff has learned there has been a significant increase in wages for line workers. Ayers stated other surrounding electric utilities have raised wages anywhere between \$2.50-\$5.00 per hour or more. There is also a shortage of line workers. Ayers stated that the utility cannot compete by constantly raising wages and benefits provided to employees should be explored.

Lincoln suggested restructuring after discussing with his employees. The line workers are currently doing more work with water by replacing valves and curb stops. There are also employees who are nearing retirement age in the waste water treatment plant. Lincoln suggested moving an employee whose main responsibility is water operation to the waste water treatment plant and let the water maintenance be done by the line workers. A wage increase for line workers is also something that would be considered in conjunction with the restructuring.

Goethel would like to see a proposal with wage increases in conjunction with the restructuring plan. The general consensus from the committee is they are interested in a restructuring plan and that includes a wage increase for line workers.

**9. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Purchase of a Snowplow Truck**

Lincoln has not received additional quotes. There currently is one approved quote for International chassis. Other vendors either do not produce chassis for municipalities or are no longer returning his calls. The longer-term plan after this snow plow purchase is to find more dual purchase vehicles. The financing and purchase are approved, but staff would like approval to move forward with the purchase of this particular vehicle since they were directed to receive additional estimates. The committee agreed this item can move on to the Economic, Finance, and Human Resources Committee since there are no additional estimates.

**10. Utilities, Streets, and Parks Superintendent Report**

Lincoln reviewed activities and projects in the departments he supervises.

**11. Meeting Recap**

The committee reviewed discussion topics and motions.

**12. Future Agenda Items**

**13. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, July 5 at 6:00 PM and Agenda Items**

**14. Adjourn. Motion** (Goethel, Hansen) to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Voice vote – all Ayes. **Motion carried.**

Minutes by Jennifer Sweeney, Management Analyst

APPROVED