

**CITY OF HERMANTOWN
UTILITY COMMISSION**
Thursday, January 18, 2024
5:30 PM Central

MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

CITY STAFF: *Paul Senst, Public Works Director; Trish Crego, Utility & Infrastructure Director, David Bolf, City Engineer*

VISITORS: *None*

1. ROLL CALL

Bill Berg:	Present
Councilor Andy Hjelle:	Absent
Doug Kerfeld:	Present
Robert McLachlan:	Present
Jim Samberg:	Present

2. MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2024 Utility Commission Meeting

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes from 11/21/2024. This motion, made by Doug Kerfeld and seconded by Robert McLachlan, Carried.

Bill Berg:	Yea
Doug Kerfeld:	Yea
Robert McLachlan:	Yea
Jim Samberg:	Yea

Yea: 4 Nay: 0

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

This is the time for which individuals can address the Commission about any item pertaining to utilities. The time limit is three minutes per person.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. WLSSD Discharge Monitoring Report-no comment

B. MN Dept of Health - Sanitary Survey Report- Page 13 Jim was curious if “the pumps do have two sources of power”. Paul confirmed yes and will relay that to MNDOH

C. MN Public Utilities Commission – Communication- Trish stated that the Utility Clerk plans to apply this where necessary in our billing

D. Utility Billing Update- *no comment*

5. PRESENTATIONS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Duluth Water Infrastructure Surcharge- David Bolf, *City Engineer: On November 20th, 2024 the City of Hermantown (Dave Bolf, John Mulder, and Kevin Orme) met with the City of Duluth (Jim Benning and a couple of others). In this meeting, the city of Duluth presented the findings from the Federal EPA in regards to their public water system. Duluth is now required to make approximately \$40,000,000 (bond) in upgrades to the water treatment system. Duluth took the percentage 7.25% of Hermantown usage to the existing system and applied it to the to the bond equaling \$18134.69 over 15 years. The City of Hermantown proposed two options for how to disperse the surcharge. Option A: have a tiered system perimeter size or Option B: to have a flat fee of \$7.50 per meter.*

A motion was made by Bill Berg to recommend Option B. Doug Kerfeld seconded the motion, Carried.

Bill Berg: Yea

Doug Kerfeld: Yea

Robert McLachlan: Yea

Jim Samberg: Yea

Yea: 4 Nay: 0

8. REPORTS

A. Budget to Actual Expenditure Report- *no comment*

B. Public Works Director Report

- *Doug mentioned that we should keep an eye on the erosion control on Maple Grove in the Fichtner Park construction area. He doesn't want road flooding to happen at the inlets.*
- *Paul added that the City of Duluth informed us that as of April 1, they will no longer be performing the required testing of our water for chloride and bacteria and that we will have to perform or contract out that testing.*
- *Paul also mentioned that in the next few years, the maintenance department will need to buy a vac truck for the safety and efficiency of the maintenance on the utility systems. \$650,000-\$750,000 is the estimated cost.*

C. Utility & Infrastructure Director Report

- *Bill asked if the Arena site design has accounted for bus pick up and drop off*
- *Paul mentioned that the Russ Bradley connection did not go smoothly as-builts drawings were not correct. However, the project has now passed the inspections and should hook up the connections soon.*

D. Water Loss Report

E. WLSSD Monthly Flow - Rain Fall & Flow Report

F. Comfort Systems Invoice

- *Doug noted the spike in the Bayview report. Paul said that we have been monitoring that for years and cannot find a reason for it.*

G. Pending Connections Report

9. COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORT

A. Jim Samberg -none

B. William Berg -none

C. Robert McLachlan -none

D. Doug Kerfeld -none

E. Councilor Andy Hjelle – absent

10. RECESS

A motion was made by Rob to arrange the meeting at 6:34. Bill Berg seconded the motion, Carried.

Bill Berg: Yea

Doug Kerfeld: Yea

Robert McLachlan: Yea

Jim Samberg: Yea

Yea: 4 Nay: 0