

LINDSBORG CITY COUNCIL
Lindsborg City Hall
November 15, 2021– 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Becky Anderson, Ed Radatz, Rick Martin, Kirsten Bruce, Blaine Heble, Emile Gallant, Jodi Duncan, Mark Friesen

ABSENT:

Rebecca Van Der Wege

OTHERS PRESENT:

Greg DuMars, Beth Ferguson, Holly Lofton, Chief Davis, David Hay, Lucas Neece, Chris Lindholm, Roxie Sjogren, Bill Gusenius, Corey Peterson, Clark Shultz, Tanner Corwin, Jordan Jerkovich, John Presley

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Becky Anderson followed by the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT:

There was no public input.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No amendments.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Anderson shared a letter from the Austin Peters Group regarding the city administrator search process. The mayor thanked Lindsborg for the previous weekend ((holiday open house for downtown businesses) and thanked everyone for supporting the local businesses. Mayor Anderson also shared some important dates from her time on Council as mayor. This was Mayor Anderson's last meeting that she would preside over as mayor.

CONSENT AGENDA: Kirsten Bruce moved to approve the Special Meeting minutes from October 28, 2021, November 2, 2021, November 5, 2021, and November 8, 2021, as well as minutes from the November 1, 2021, regular council meeting, Payroll Ordinance 5329, and Purchase Order Ordinance 5330. Motion seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Appointments

Blaine Heble moved to approve the appointment of Jason Archuleta to the Lindsborg Fire Department. Seconded by Ed Radatz and passed unanimously.

Planning and Zoning:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Transformer Purchase

The Electric Department has replaced a couple of transformers which have significant rust damage and were in very poor condition. This has reduced the number of back up transformers of this type to the point that replacements need to be ordered. Attached are two quotes for three transformers, 2) 25kVA pad mount and 1) 50kVA pad mount to have on hand as spare transformers. One quote is from Midwest Transformer and one quote is from Sunbelt-Solomon. The price difference between the two bids is \$865.00 with Sunbelt-Solomon being the lower. If you notice the lead time for delivery is 42-45 weeks from Sunbelt-Solomon compared to 10-12 weeks from Midwest. This quote comparison was done to check on pricing and while the price may be lower from Solomon, the lead time is unacceptable. Leadtime has been a significant issue in the past with Sunbelt-Solomon and thus staff recommends purchase transformers from Midwest Transformer.

Blaine Heble moved to approve the quote from Midwest Transformer for 3 replacement transformers for inventory for \$8,980.00. Seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Water Line Quote

Starting in August of 2013, the water department has dealt with seven line breaks on Well #9 water line running from the well to the standpipe. Another break, this being the 8th, occurred sometime in the past few weeks. When the first couple of breaks occurred, it was just considered an anomaly and the length of pipe or couple of lengths of pipe that were bad were simply replaced. As more breaks occurred, suspicions grew about the extent of bad pipe that was in the ground and the crew would replace whole sections of pipe connecting areas between what had previously been replaced.

The latest leak came at a bad time when there is very little pipe available and the cost of the pipe that is available is more than double the normal cost. From an operational standpoint, it does not make sense to continue to replace the pipe as we have in the past. If just the bad spot was replaced, this happens again in 6 months and pipe may not be available. The replacement of all the pipe within the problem area is the only way to eliminate the issue. Number 9 Well is the primary well and while Well 10 & 11 will keep up this time of the year. The pipe was delivered and installed last week.

Kirsten Bruce moved to approve the invoice from Municipal Supply, Inc for the purchase of 460 feet of 10" water line for \$14,039.20. Seconded by Blaine Heble and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Proposals

The upgrade to an Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) has been discussed for many years and was budgeted for 2020. Due to COVID and other priorities in 2020, the AMI project did not move forward. Funds were carried over to 2021 and this year staff has spent many hours investigating options and talking to companies that deal with AMI. There are many benefits to an AMI system, a few of them are listed below.

- 1) Allows for variable pricing structures.
- 2) Optional billing cycles and payment options.
- 3) Real time data and system monitoring for the utility.
- 4) Power outage management and notification alerts.
- 5) Instant readings for read in and read outs.
- 6) No vehicle rolls for shut-offs.
- 7) Reduced issues caused by human error.

There are other benefits to an AMI system as well as a few negatives. The negatives are mainly cost, data management / interpretation and public relations related to Automated Metering. An AMI system will be beneficial to all parts of the utility. From the administration / finance side, the amount and quality of data will be

extremely valuable for analyzing usage and setting up billing rates & structures. From the utility clerk side, AMI will help reduce human errors, allow for instant reads for read in and read outs and no vehicle rolls for shut offs. From the standpoint of the electric department, AMI will provide them an outage monitoring and alert system which does two things. One, the system will notify the department when there is an outage and where the outage is. This is a tremendous asset because it also provides them with a map to see what meters are without power. They will still need to figure out what caused the outage, but now they have a good visual to help direct them to an area. The second part, which is maybe even more important to the crew, they can leave at the end of an outage with peace of mind knowing that all customers are back on because the map will confirm that there are no meters without power.

AMI on the water meters will allow for leak monitoring, instant reads for move in / move outs, reduces labor costs with no vehicle rolls and helps reduce water loss by providing no lag data.

Emile Gallant moved to approve the quotation from Nighthawk for an Adaptiv AMI metering system for \$577,436.00. Seconded by Mark Friesen and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 5331 – Interconnection Standards and Renewable Parallel Generation Ordinance

The City of Lindsborg currently has a net metering policy which was adopted in 2008. Under a net metering program, those electric utility customers with renewable generation are subsidized by customers who do not have renewable generation. The subsidy occurs because through net metering a customer with renewable generation is connected to the City's distribution system and pushes energy onto the system but does not pay the distribution system costs because under net metering all of the costs (transmission, distribution and energy) of the electric utility are in kilowatt hour (kWh) energy charge that gets netted out. The proposed Interconnection Standards and Parallel Operation of Customer-Owned Renewable Electric Generation Facilities would change how the customer is credited for excess energy that their system produces. The energy that the customer receives from the electric utility is metered and the excess energy that the customer-owned renewable electric generation is metered. The new rate will be unbundled so there is a separate energy charge and a separate distribution charge. Only the excess energy charge is credited against the customer's monthly consumption. The distribution charge would be for all energy flowing into and out of the customers residence or business. The credit for excess energy would be at 150% of avoided energy cost. The policy limits residential to a maximum of 25kW and commercial to 200kW renewable installations.

As a public power utility, the City of Lindsborg electric department is not under the Kansas Corporation (KCC) jurisdiction. But the proposed policy complies with the latest KCC regulations and will comply with K.S.A. 66-1,184.

Kirsten Bruce moved to approve Ordinance No. 5331 adopting the Interconnection Standards for Installation and Parallel Operation of Customer-Owned Renewable Electric Generation Facilities 25 kW_{AC} or Less for Residential Service and 200 kW_{AC} or Less for Commercial Service. Seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 5332 – Electric Rates

On March 15, 2021, an Electric Utility Revenue Requirements and Rate Study was approved. The rate study has been completed and is attached.

Ordinance No. 5332 would implement the recommendations of the study. Currently, there are two customer classes: Residential & Commercial. Under 5332 the customer classes would be broken out into 3 classes: Residential, Small Commercial (up to 80,000 kWh's/annually) and Large Commercial (greater than 80,000 kWh's/annually). The creation of 3 different customer classes is to recognize that there are cost differences in

servicing the different customer classes and to appropriately recover the respective costs for each customer class. Another change is the unbundling of the kilowatt hour (kWh or energy charge). Currently the kWh charge is a blended rate. In the ordinance for Residential and Small Commercial, the blended rate is unbundled to a distribution charge and an energy charge. In the Large Commercial customer class, the bundled rate is separated into a distribution charge, demand charge and an energy charge. This unbundling of the energy charge more accurately reflects what the costs of electric service are. The unbundling also provides for greater flexibility in future rate setting structures along with more accurately charging for customer-owned parallel generation.

Emile Gallant moved to approve Ordinance No. 5332, with the correction of the February 10, 2022, language amending the user charge system and electric rates. Seconded by Blaine Heble and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Federico/Duerst Consulting Group Contract

In November of 2018, the City contracted with Federico Consulting for advocacy services to help build and enhance relationships with state legislators, executives, and agencies within the state.

Under the contract, meetings have been coordinated with the Governor Lt. Governor, Commerce Secretary, Chair of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee and Kansas Housing Resources Corporation Executive Director. Two “Lindsborg Day at the Capitol” was scheduled, coordinated, and executed. The “Meet in the Middle” summer meeting was inaugurated in Lindsborg in 2019 with 130 attendees of which 60 were legislators. It was held again in 2021 and had 100 attendees. Other services received are daily committee reports with weekly recaps during the legislative session.

Attached is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 2022. The terms of the MOU are the same as the MOU for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Blaine Heble moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Federico Duerst Consulting. Seconded by Kirsten Bruce and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Employee Holiday Bonus

It has been the tradition of City Council to provide to every regular full-time employee a holiday bonus. The recommendation is for \$150 per employee. Currently there are 32 regular full-time employees with the city.

Kirsten Bruce moved to approve of holiday bonus in the amount of \$150 per employee for a total of \$4,800. Seconded by Rick Martin and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Rick Martin, seconded by Ed Radatz. Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roxie Sjogren, CMC
City Clerk