

CITY OF BARRON
MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE BARRON UTILITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018, 3:00 P.M.
CITY HALL-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1456 E LASALLE AVE

1. Call to order

President Amundson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Quorum was declared.
COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Marvin Amundson, Joe Johnson, Bob Missling, Gene Redlich and Ken Petersen.

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Hattie Widiker, Utility Manager Rick Jari, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Bob Kazmierski, Mayor Ron Fladten, MSA City Engineer Teresa Anderson and Office Coordinator Sande Hause.

2. Approval of the minutes from July 9, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.

Motion by Redlich, seconded by Petersen, to approve the minutes of July 9, 2018, as printed, voice vote:

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

3. Approval of the bills.

Motion by Missling, seconded by Redlich, to approve the August bills, including ratifying late bills, as presented, voice vote:

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

4. Review Financial Reports.

Widiker presented the June 2018 Electric, Water and Sewer Utilities balance sheets/financial statements. Petersen stated the rate of return for the electric department was low and it was discussed for Jari to contact our auditor to look into a proposed rate increase.

5. Plant Operations Reports.

Jari reported on the plant operations report, profit and loss statement for electric service to the City of Barron and Jennie-O Turkey Store, peak demands report and water sold vs water pumped report. Peak demands are still high due to the warm weather.

6. Discussion of outcomes of previous business.

Jari reported the utility signed the extended Power Purchase Agreement with AEPEP at \$43.85 per MWh for 6/1/27-5/31/28. Jari mentioned the cost for capacity and transmission is increasing, which is about 25% of our bill.

7. Discuss and consider Sewer Forgiveness for 703 S Mill St and 487 E Taylor Ave.

Letter was discussed from Robert Christorf at 703 S. Mill Street requesting sewer forgiveness due to a water leak and he had to pump out approximately 5 feet of water onto his lawn. Motion by Petersen, seconded by Redlich, to forgive sewer charge of \$440.05 at 703 S Mill Street, voice vote:

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

Letter from Wayne and Valerie Gieseke at 487 E Taylor Avenue requesting sewer forgiveness was discussed. They had a break under the kitchen sink and had to have water removed and some was soaked up by carpet, furniture and sheet rock. Motion by Petersen, seconded by Johnson, to split 50/50 and to forgive sewer charge of \$75.43 for 487 E. Taylor Avenue, voice vote:

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

8. Discuss and consider WWTP capacity review and load allocations, updated cost to treat BOD, SS, etc.

Anderson reviewed the current capacity agreement for the peak monthly allocations. It was discussed to rewrite the agreement to limit capacity based on interim revised loads. Motion by Petersen, seconded by Johnson, to recommend the Joint Commission to work with Cameron to pursue the interim agreement to decrease capacity allocation based on MSA recommendation, voice vote:

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

9. Discuss Focus on Energy Grant application with MSA.

Anderson presented information that Focus on Energy has a Wastewater Plant Energy Assessment grant available now. MSA proposed cost is \$11,500, the grant would cover cost up to \$10,000. Barron and Cameron share cost would only be \$750 each. Motion by Missling, seconded by Redlich, to recommend Barron/Cameron Wastewater Treatment Commission to pursue the Focus on Energy grant application, voice vote:

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

10. Update on Water Storage #2 project.

Anderson reported that MSA is proceeding with the site and went over what else has to be done to keep progressing. DNR engineering report is approved, MSA will proceed to acquire the Coss property and to work on plans and specs. Projected completion is fall of 2019.

11. Projects update.

Rick reported the linemen are working on the tennis court lights. Water department is working on private well permits.

12. Plant Performance Graph.

Jari reported the flows with Cameron are fine. BOD's are still high, but are being treated and going down.

Closed Session

Motion to go into closed session, roll call vote;

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Missling, seconded by Petersen, to leave closed session, voice vote:

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

Open Session

Motion by Missling, seconded by Petersen, to offer Option 2, motion failed.

Motion by Petersen, seconded by Johnson, to amend option 2, roll call vote;

Ayes-5 Nays-0 Absent-0 Motion carried.

13. Adjournment

Duly moved to adjourn by unanimous consent at 5:16 pm.

Prepared by Sande Hause, Office Coordinator – Barron Light & Water