

The regular meeting of the Truman City Council was held on Monday, December 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brownlee.

Present: Councilors Ebert, Hendricksen, Mosloski, and Nickerson

Absent: None

Also present were: J. Clow, C. Kopel, T. Varpness, B. Brown, J. Jobe

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

2. CMPAS - Chris Kopel, CEO

November 21st - FERC lowered equity on transmission and therefore will ITC be owing us a refund. Reduced the basis by 44 points. Refund period dates back to November 2013 and the other one starts when new rate went into effect on September 28, 2016. This was retro active because this case was tied up in a court case in DC court of appeals. Due to extension request the refund will not be until next November or December 2019, or January 2021. Approximately in the \$35,000 range.

Transmission studies - moving forward with that. Sign a contract with Power System Engineers to do a complete study for all members. Kick off meeting for that is on January 9th. Send a representative from city. Goal is to look at each city and find projects that can be identified and constructed to be put into MISO tariffs to get recovery of costs plus a return, or get members off of ITC and look at alternatives since ITC rates are so high.

Attachment O Process - in process of developing those. Working thru the audited financials and trying to populate as much of the Attachment O as we can. May have questions to get them completed. Goal is to have all 8 of those complete and for submittal to MISO. Process may be slow due to volume of refund requests.

Engineers were out and looked at the low tap changer on our sub. Looking at ordering a new controller and the estimate on that is \$3,400. City will order that and when it arrives they can come and help install it.

They are working on coming up with a way to price the services provided to associate members for us. Some such services is Beehive - GIS program to put info from electrical system into an online platform. Can you use it for water and sewer as well. SKATA - data acquisition, programming of relays and meters, and feeder relay update projects. They do all engineering and all programming, but they don't do any field installation work. Third party is hired for installation.

An engineering study would benefit us in that it could reduce system losses which would in turn save us money. Same idea on the transmission side.

Options for Power Supply - Delta Montrose Electric Assoc - Disagreement with FERC because they wanted to buy more than 5% to spur

renewable around the area. FERC law trumped all your requirement PPA. Going to look at ways to use the Delta Montrose precedent FERC as a way to acquire renewables.

Also, look at ways we can flatten or level that load.

Mosoloski - load management - we have a low participation (25% - 30%) of town, and people bypass the system collecting their credits and do nothing for our rates. Having the manpower to double check these systems. What is your recommendation.

Could transition to all remote control. The controlled devices right on where the meter is so you can't bypass the signal from the grid or wireless signal.

Ekstrom - Tim Stoner is drafting an email so that we have something formal to look at for our budget meeting.

Mosloski - Are their customers looking at time use rates?

Kopel - We do not have any members in the agency are looking at that. This could be the other option for Truman with your situation. However it is driven by peak load and not necessarily what is going on in the market. Most use rates are tied to a market of some form. Would have to do a rate study.

Ebert - In regards to the refund, have the rates already been reflected that changes that.

Kopel - MISO is going to reduce the ROE that is used to reduce the rates and beginning January 1 it will reflect those changes. Go back and do calculations on what the rate should have been for the refund period and calculate what they should have collected versus what they did and that will be the refund. Refund credit will go back to Heartland and eventually back to customers.

Will look into it being disbursed over 12 month period to avoid one really low bill and then back up to where it should be. MISO will send in a lump sum but then credited back to customer over period of time.

3. UTILITY BUSINESS

Beckwith Elec Quote for purchasing new cap changer controller for the sub station. There were two, one has been out of commission for 10 years and the other one is the main line to sub station and that is where we would run that. Helps with accurate voltage to customers. Motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve. All eyes - carried.

Discussion was held about the lower cost version of Microsoft at \$5/month that was purchased for the utility workers to use, however you need internet to be able to use Microsoft. If working from home and don't have internet it causes issues. The upgrade version of Microsoft would be \$12.50. Jetpacks were added to Ambulance and were \$39.99/month, versus hotspot which would be \$10/month. There is only

one shop computer but the cost is \$12.50 per user and they have 3 users. However they share one user to access budget files, etc so everyone has access to the same information. Therefore only one charge for \$12.50 would be needed for the updated version. Motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Hendricksen to approve. All ayes - carried.

Set EAA rate - discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Union wastewater position letter of understanding between Truman and IBEW for the wage rate for our water and wastewater position. Motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve. All ayes - carried.

Discussion was held about clothing purchase and PPE being imperative that it be ordered due to it being required for utility employees to wear even though it exceeds the limit to which approval from councilman is required. Contacting the councilman on the utilities commission to get immediate approval would be fine if staying within the PPE budget set for the year. If exceeding the budget it may be necessary to take to the entire council for approval. As long as the purchase was approved by council it will be fine with auditors as well.

Union contract - 2 or more licenses offered additional .50 cents. Brent got his water license therefore qualifying him for that increase. That will need to reflect on Brents paycheck plus back pay. Taylor will be taking class in July and if passed he would also qualify for the increase, to be factored in from July to December. Need a letter of understanding to clarify what licenses are required for the raise.

A request for a printer/scanner/color copier was also mention. Jake offered one to the city as they had a machine that wasn't being used due to less people in the office.

Discussion was held about cross training Sherry to do meter reads due to heavy work load. Additional license for Power Manager is approximately \$4,000. Power manager is used for city and utilities, therefore both licenses could be used at the same time by the office staff and not leave availability for utility workers. Customers requesting current bill aren't able to come and get a copy. Bethanie will look into that. Utility workers and office staff will have to help each other as needed to get by. Bethany will look into whether an additional license can be purchase for a short term period of time for a lesser amount. Look into this as a short term way to get things back on track and then go back to 2 users.

4. UTILITY CLAIMS

Ck #2544-2568 - \$127,489.14

A motion was made by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert to approve the utility claims. All ayes - carried.

5. MINUTES

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Hendricksen to approve the minutes read for regular meeting and special meeting. All ayes - carried.

6. CITY CLAIMS

Ck #37583-37627 - \$87,410.57

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve the city claims, cancel Casey's Cards and look into Profinium credit card as an option. All ayes - carried.

Amendment was made for \$250 for Mike & Justin for registration for 2020 Winter Conference and not \$175 for Justin to attend. Motion made by Mosloski, seconded by Ebert to approve. All ayes - carried.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Jesse Clow - looking for recommendations to re-hire Jose Lopez for ambulance. He's expired but only needs to take a refresher course. He was contacted and said he would be available during the day for calls if he wasn't with a customer and would be free to leave. He is close enough at home to be responding from town.

Also, Lewisville has asked us to re-sign the contract again. Original contract was for one year and this is at least year 3. The amount of calls are approximately 8 to 12 times a year. After talking with Carolyn, they only have 4 EMTs with one who needs to re-take the test but he is deployed currently. Another person might start the class in January. Also talked with Mark Griffith about doing a step-down process where we gradually do less, but that could get confusing. Discussed helping them for one more year and then that's it. If a call got missed during hours that we aren't scheduled then they could risk losing their EMS privileges and then be First Responders. Their PSA would be divided between Truman/St. James/Madelia. If they lose EMS privileges it would be very hard to get back.

Motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Hendricksen to approve re-hire Lopez and re-sign the contract for another year. All ayes - carried.

Discussion held about 2020 licenses for Aardvark's, China House Café, Casey's, and Dollar General(tobacco). Motion was made by Nickerson, seconded by Hendricksen to approve. All ayes - carried.

Discussion was held about adding Sherry to petty cash bank account so that she can take money back for stamps, etc. Also, while making changes to the account should we add Shannon to the account. Motion to add Sherry & Shannon to bank account was made by Nickerson, seconded by Hendrickson to approve. All ayes - carried.

Evaluation of old grocery store cooler came in low but we could start the offer higher, but this gave us an idea of where to start. Coolers should be in working order just need to turn them on. Testing the coolers to make sure they work would give us an opportunity to sell them as functioning systems therefore ask more money. Taylor will run

temp service to grocery store to test coolers to ensure they still run. Get in touch with party interested and let them know we are willing to work with them.

Snow emergency - complaint made by resident about neighbors who park in the street due to no driveway which creates an issue when the street department is clearing snow. She is having to clean her driveway twice because street department has to come back and clear the street after the neighbors move their cars, where if the cars were moved to begin with she would only have to clear her driveway once. She may have to work together with her neighbors to develop a different plan. Might run into trouble with adopt policy and this time of year. Motion to table the ordinance for now was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson.

City Hall signage - Fairmont Glass & Sign image of new sign was provided. DSI said it wasn't the ideal time to be putting up a sign. They said they would come look at the building but have not shown up yet. Confusing for customers with "Truman Public Utilities" still on the building. Go with what we have from Fairmont Glass & Sign. Bottom image was preferred. Motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to move forward with bottom image for new City Hall sign. All ayes - carried.

Server battery back-up in the past had just been replaced if their were issues with it for about \$100. Bevcomm quoted approximately \$800 for a server battery back-up. Need to do more research on the battery back-up that Bevcomm quoted on. One for sure is not working so we can get a new battery to get it working. There is one for the server and one for each computer, and the one for the server is the one not working. Taylor can get batteries for \$35/battery and some of them require two. Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve ordering new batteries. All ayes - carried.

Pioneer power wants us to know that they are still interested in generators for museum. Gentleman from LeSeuer Pioneer Power met with Kathy about them a couple years ago. They are starting fundraising efforts to build a building and move generators. They will come and take it out thru the north wall and an overhead door would be put in. They would pay \$1 for it. They would pay for overhead door.

Maternity leave expectations for Bethanie. While on leave still do the reporting portion of duties and take a few phone calls, but try to be on leave as much as possible. Relay to Sherry the important things she needs to know and do. Utilize Monte if you have questions. Increase Sherry to 40 hours.

Squirrel caused power outage in substation on a Sunday. Tried to reset the breakers from the plant and it didn't work. Then had to go out to the substation and reset there but need to be two people, so Taylor had to wait for the second guy to arrive before they could do that. Discussed whether to use mutual aid in that insistence from

Fairmont or Madelia, however they said we have to have proper staff before they will come help. Don't want us to rely on them.

Motion lighting - Greg is having an employee looking into nickel finished lighting. He will provide us with a quote. It may be best to buy the motion sensor lights at a box store and have them install them.

Hendricksen said that the Community building carpet had something dripped across the carpet and we need to have that taken care of. Persons that rent the community building are in charge of taking the garbage out and sweeping the floors.

Concerns about snow coming off awning at city hall above main entrance. Will look into ways to improve safety.

Request for more police presence on the highway and mix up the time schedule. Too much speeding thru town and concerned for people pulling out onto the highway.

It would be beneficial to Bethanie to attend utility meetings to help understand the utility side. Also have Brent or Taylor come along.

Taylor has not been paid for mileage for going to meetings. Mileage should be paid from where you departed and where you traveled to and back. Get clarification of actual mileage from Taylor and then pay him. Motion made by Ebert, seconded by Nickerson to approve actual mileage to be paid for travel to meetings, training, etc. All ayes - carried.

During budget meetings would like full attendance of utility employees, but beyond that could limit attendance for other meetings to department heads only.

Can residents have propane heat in a building with a storage tank outside. This is allowable.

Jobe reviewed the policy in Fairmont for issuing parking tickets. If we are interested in changing our policy Jobe will come up with a way to track which ones have been paid and which ones have not.

Jobe still has not found any interest from neighboring towns to help with part-time hours to cover time off. When taking time off he has been burning comp time off or look at losing it. Good possibility that Mike will be taking a medical leave sometime at the beginning of the year to have rotator cuff surgery. If no one on duty it goes to sheriff if they have personnel.

8. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Hendricksen to adjourn. All ayes - carried.

Time - 7:53 p.m.

Thea Boesch, City Clerk-Treasurer