

CITY OF MENASHA
Special Joint Common Council and
Menasha Electric and Water Utility Commission
Third Floor Council Chambers
140 Main Street, Menasha
September 14, 2009
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Merkes at 5:10 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

PRESENT: Ald. Taylor, Wisneski, pack, Hendricks, Zelinski, Englebert
Mayor Merkes, Comm. Allwardt, Fahrbach, Watson

EXCUSED: Ald. Benner, Comm. Guidote

ALSO PRESENT: Atty. Rich Carlson, Lt. Bonneville, C/T Stoffel, MU Mgr Sturm, MU Mgr Krause,
Clerk Galeazzi and the Press

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

(five (5) minutes time limit for each person)

Dan Szafranski, Steam Plant employee. Steam Plant employees did what was asked of them; Council should look at severance package for employees facing lay off.

Tony Hoppe, Steam Plant employee. Take into consideration the employees that remained with the plant to the end when considering a severance package.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. [Decommissioning Plan/Cost](#)

MU Manager Krause explained the three plans proposed by staff. Option A will keep the plant in a saleable and useable condition for the future. She went over the estimated amounts to decommission the plant with the different options. Even with using the funds available from the Utilities reserve fund, the City would need to cover the shortfall.

MU Manager Sturm explained staff is recommending Option A is the best option that will preserve the plant at the lowest possible cost and still follow good engineering practices. It will cover all the absolute essentials. He explained some of the procedures that will take place to close down the plant. Staff is not sure on all the final costs on the leased equipment. They have been holding discussions with the lease holders.

Moved by Ald. Wisneski, seconded by Ald. Hendricks to accept staff recommendation of Option A for the decommissioning of the Steam Plant.

Discussion: Atty. Carlson recommended an agreement breaking down all the cost associated with the decommissioning or a resolution with the same information for Council approval.

Motion carried on voice vote. Ald. Zelinski voting nay.

Moved by Comm. Fahrbach, seconded by Comm. Watson to accept staff recommendation of Option A for decommissioning of the Steam Plant.

Motion carried on voice vote.

2. Decommissioning Team

MU Manager Sturm explained to keep a manageable team, six to eight workers would be recommended for a decommissioning team. The budget could handle six workers for eight weeks or eight workers for six weeks.

MU Manager Krause explained the Utility Commission approved the relocation of two System Operators and one Electro-Mechanical Technician to the Electric Distribution Dept. These three could be used as part of the decommissioning team as they have the qualifications. There are other qualified workers that can be part of the team without using the three that were relocated to the Electric side.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS, Cont'd
2. Decommissioning Team, Cont'd

Moved by Ald. Pack, seconded by Ald. Taylor to form a decommissioning team of eight people for six weeks as determined by staff.

Motion carried on voice vote. Ald. Zelinski abstained.

Moved by Comm. Allwardt, seconded by Comm. Fahrback to form a decommissioning team of eight people for six weeks as determined by staff.

Motion carried on voice vote.

3. Severance

MU Manager Krause explained the current union contract for the Utility Employees does not have a provision for a severance package for displaced workers.

Discussion ensued on wanting to help displaced employees move forward with a severance or some type of networking, but trying to find money will be hard.

Mayor Merkes asked if there was an objection he would look at options to help fund a severance package for displaced employees.

No objections.

F. MENASHA ELECTRIC AND WATER UTILITY COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Comm. Fahrback, seconded by Comm. Watson, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m.

Motion carried on voice vote

G. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. [Ordinance Changes/Appropriation of Funds](#)

C/T Stoffel reported the City did not budget any funds for the shut down of the Steam Plant. The Council could amend or repeal an ordinance created in 1999 to maintain at least 10% of budgeted expenditures in an undesignated reserve to cover payroll and provide help should an emergency arise. He feels comfortable retaining 5 percent to 6 percent. He will make a recommendation to the Council at their next meeting.

Mayor Merkes said the funds in the undesignated reserve are for emergency use. The shut down of the Steam Plant constitutes an emergency use.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ald. Hendricks, seconded by Ald. Wisneski to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Motion carried on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by
Deborah A. Galeazzi, WCMC
City Clerk