

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 6:00 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
CITY COUNCIL & UTILITIES COMMISSION STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Roll Call: Mayor Pro Tem Jaci Lindstrom; Council Members: Jill Bartel, Paul Kozloski, and Andrew Myers and Treasurer Steve Howarth. Absent: Mayor Mike Taylor.

Staff Present: City Administrator Susanne Griffin, City Clerk Heidi Honey, Public Works Superintendent Brian Berent, and City Engineer Darren Amundsen

Guests: Utilities Commission Chair Alan Carlson

1. Mayor Pro Tem Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to update council on the work and discussion of the Utilities Commission to date. The Utilities Commission was directed to study the water plant and storage issues and options and report back to council tonight.

2. Recap of Water Storage and Plant Issues – Darren Amundsen

2.1. Background of Issues and Meeting with Orono

Amundsen reviewed the timeline, meetings and studies to date which started with an inspection by the MN Dept. of Health of the water plant in March and ground reservoir in June and water tower in August. They did not find any issues with the safety of the water. The issues were primarily with the water plant and storage capacity. The health department inspection of the water plant compared the current plant to today's standards. The items that they noted were later narrowed down to priority items regarding safety and security at the plant. KLM provided a report with costs to repair or replace the water tower and ground reservoir. Water supply and storage options were discussed with Orono, and it was identified that Orono may need additional storage capacity as well. Orono is considering a regional plan with other surrounding communities and will be initiating a meeting.

3. Utilities Commission Discussions and Recommendations – Carlson & Lindstrom

Carlson summarized the Utilities Commission meeting discussion where they considered numerous options regarding refurbishing and/or replacing the water tower, water treatment plant, and ground storage. They recommended further analysis of the five following options:

1. Refurbish the existing 50,000 gallon capacity tower in the next two to three years.
2. Build a new tower with 75,000 gallon capacity.
3. Build a new tower with 100,000 gallon capacity (additional storage for Orono).
4. Refurbish the 50,000 gallon ground storage tank for additional capacity.
5. Rebuild or refurbish existing plant.

Carlson went on to say that the MN Dept. of Health did not say that the water tower needed to be replaced but there are parts that are 30 to 60 years old and will wear out. Utilities Commissioners felt it was important to determine the cost to keep the plant running and the feasibility of doing that in order to decide on how to proceed. He then stated that the MN Dept. of Health recommended that the system be studied to determine the adequacy of the system and the need for increased storage. They recommend using the average daily usage as a guideline with one day storage capacity. Water usage is much higher in the summer so comparing the capacity and the average daily usage as a guide is misleading in determining year-round storage needs. A larger capacity tower may not make a meaningful difference from the current storage. The large increase in summer water usage skews the data and most of the year the average is below 75,000 gallons. Summer usage spikes much higher than 100,000

gallons. The current tower handles the demand on peak days and pumps can supply 400 gallons per minute. It also can handle fire protection requirements. Carlson strongly recommended a study to determine the adequacy of the system and the need for increased storage as the MN Dept. of Health suggested.

There was discussion about buying water from Orono, the consequences of giving up ownership of the water system and that the city's well are a resource. Amundsen will forward the guidelines for public water supply to the Utilities Commission. The city is unique in its seasonal water demand and the guidelines may not apply. Although maximum daily usage is a guideline, excessive storage should be avoided to prevent potential water quality problems. Amundsen thought 75,000-80,000 would be recommended unless the city imposes water conservation efforts. Storage capacity research and financial analysis is needed to narrow down the options.

Utility Commissioner Lang discussed the regional approach that Orono is researching and said that the Utilities commissioners voted to move forward with discussions with Orono with or without the regional approach because that process may take a long time.

4. City Council Considerations

Lindstrom discussed the historic register process for the water tower. Myers recommended putting the process on pause. Griffin explained that because the City received a grant to continue to work on the nomination process, they can't stop that process, but the city is not required to move on to the next step which is a conditions assessment. That grant application would be due in February 2019. Council agreed to pause the conditions assessment and they will reassess it later.

Lindstrom then discussed if the city should begin to explore with residents the historic significance of the old water tower through public hearings. Bartel and Myers thought it would be good to get public input at a public hearing. After discussion, Council determined it is too early and additional information is needed before they can schedule a public hearing.

5. Next Steps – Direction to Utilities Commission and/or Finance Committee

Lindstrom stated that this topic is on the Council meeting agenda. Council will need to provide direction to the Utilities Commission of what to do next such as further narrowing down the options once financial analysis is received and, also possibly direct the Finance Committee to perform financial analysis of the options.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE – The following people signed the Study Session/Council meeting attendance sheet: Nell Mathews, Susan Enlow, Bill Raisbeck, Santiago Abraham, Mike Lang, Jon Redmond, Joe Pagano, Jim & Cathy Dudley, Steve & Sunhi Schussler, Matt Byers, Peter Kluzak, Ben Lucas, lee Goehring, and Jeff Steinke. Not signed in:

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Honey, City Clerk