

CITY OF HERMANTOWN
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY
August 18, 2022
5:30 PM
This meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom.

ROLL CALL *Howard Jacobson, Rob McLachlan, William Berg, Jim Samberg, Councilor Grant Hauschild*

ABSENT: *Doug Kerfeld*

VISITORS *Paul Senst, Public Works Director; Lindsay Townsend, Utility Billing Clerk; Kevin Orme, Director of Finance & Administration*

MINUTES

Motion by Howard Jacobson to approve minutes of the July 21, 2022 meeting, seconded by Jim Samberg. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: *There were no members of the public present.*

COMMUNICATIONS (items of information only – any communication requiring action is provided under that item on the agenda)

- a. WLSSD Discharge Monitoring Report – Report was attached.*
- b. WLSSD 2023 Budget Public Hearings – Notification attached.*
- c. Mediacom Rate Change – Notification attached.*

PRESENTATIONS

none

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Utility Commission Frequency Discussion – Minnesota state statutes provided with information about notification of special meetings. Three days' notice would be needed and posted at City Hall and documented on the City website. Motion by Jim Samberg to have the Utility Commission meet every other month on odd months starting January 2023, seconded by Howard Jacobson. All ayes, motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2023 Utility Rates – Kevin Orme presented new utility rates that are consistent with Elher's recommendation of 4% increase for water and 2.5% increase for sewer. Residential flat rate sewer rate was questioned by Jim Samberg, it was explained that we have been under billing these customers in the past and calculated this 2023 rate on the average usage of 3,571 gallons per month. This is the average of all residential customers in the City of Hermantown. Howard Jacobson question the stormwater rate increase and was concerned that the \$1 increase was not going to be enough. Kevin Orme explained that Ehler's is doing a new rate study and the results will include an analysis of the stormwater fund and will have a*

recommendation on future increases with the results. Jim Samberg expressed concern about the stormwater rate increase as well and believes that no increase is necessary in 2023. Howard Jacobson motion to approve 2023 Utility Rates, seconded by William Berg. Howard Jacobson, William Berg, Rob McLachlan, Councilor Grant Hauschild, aye. Jim Samberg, nay. Motion carried.

- b. Sewer Credit Request – David Bristol 4899 Hermantown Rd. – Jim Samberg motion to approve a sewer credit in the amount of \$1,102.40, seconded by Rob McLachlan. All ayes, motion carried.*
- c. Sewer Credit Request – Terrance Diskin 4890 Terrace Circle – Jim Samberg motion to approve a sewer credit in the amount of \$151.84, seconded by Rob McLachlan. All ayes, motion carried.*

REPORTS

- a. Budget to Actual Expenditure Report – Report was attached. Clarification was given about account questions from last month.*
- b. Public Works Utility Maintenance & Project Update Report - Report was attached.*
- c. Water Loss Report – Report was attached*
- d. WLSSD Monthly Flow, Rain Fall & Flow – Report was attached.*
- e. New Connections Report – Report was attached.*
- f. Utility Billing Happenings – Memo attached.*

COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORT

- a. Jim Samberg: No report.*
- b. William Berg: Reported that he should have a broadband committee update next month.*
- c. Robert McLachlan: Rob brought up concern about a couple different 4 way stops in Hermantown that drivers are running the stop signs. Brought up the possibility of flashing stop signs or stop lights. Paul Senst mentioned that because of the construction on Midway Rd we are getting much more traffic through town that is also playing a part in this. This will be a future agenda item for City Council possibly.*
- d. Doug Kerfeld: Absent.*
- e. Howard Jacobson: No report.*
- f. Councilor Grant Hauschild: No report.*

RECESS *Motion by Jim Samberg to adjourn, seconded by Rob McLachlan. All ayes, motion carried. The meeting recessed at approximately 6:19 pm.*

Minutes prepared by:
Lindsay Townsend, Utility Billing Clerk