

ELECTRIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
07/12/2006

The regular meeting of the Electric Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:20pm by Chairman, Ann Bissell, in Room 101 of City Hall.

Present: Larry Arkens, W.A. Baker, Ron Beauchamp, Ann Bissell, John Mellinger, Sonja Skerbeck, and Tony Westerberg

Absent: Pat Fulsher

Also Present: Gil Cheves, Mike Furmanski, City Manager Doug Terry, Council Liaison Leo Evans

Approval of Minutes:

Bissell called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26th meeting. John Mellinger requested an amendment to the minutes to show his absence from the meeting, he was shown as present. A motion was made by Baker to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mellinger and carried unanimously. Minutes will show the amendment.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

None.

Conflict of Interest Declarations:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers:

Motion made by Mellinger to nominate Tony Westerberg as Chair. Motion seconded by Baker and carried unanimously. Tony Westerberg is elected Chairman

Motion made by Baker to nominate Larry Arkens as Vice-Chair. Motion seconded by Mellinger and carried unanimously. Larry Arkens is elected Vice-Chairman. It was decided that Tony Westerberg would take over as Chairman at the next regular meeting of the Electric Advisory Committee.

Escanaba Power Generating Project Update-Cheves

Confidentiality Agreement: Cheves advised Committee members that the City of Escanaba and WPPI are entered into a Confidentiality Agreement that came about before he was hired. He said that the agreement includes anyone on the City-side, even Electric Advisory Committee members. The reason for such agreements is not to hide information from the public. It helps in having misinterpretable information from being given out. Both parties are also working on a document control procedure to help control the flow of documents and information going out.

Members were given the newest version of the Cost-sharing Agreement that has been reviewed by both parties-City of Escanaba and WPPI. Cheves reported to members that the City had received legal help from Atty Steven Wright from Ann Arbor to assist with this portion of the project. 2 major aspects that had to be looked at were 1) We had to address the City Charter and 2) make sure that WPPI knows that the City may have to go to a referendum. Atty Wright was the legal expertise for the wording of the document, and after looking it over; WPPI is in agreement with it to this point.

Baker questioned the use of Wright as the attorney when the City has its own attorney available. Cheves advised that the City Attorney was aware of Atty Wright being used and his expertise in dealing with litigation and contract issues in large power plant development and construction. Cheves advised that the City Attorney would be kept informed of all matters as usual as the project continues. Members were provided a facts sheet on Attorney Wright for their review.

Cheves advised members that the Cost-sharing document was ready. He reported that the next step was the approval by the EAC to go to Council with the document and then the approval of the document by the City Council at the next meeting on 07/20. Once approved by Council, it then goes to WPPI Executive Committee.

Motion by Larry Arkens to: Forward the amended cost-sharing agreement between the City of Escanaba and WPPI to City Council for approval. Roll call vote was taken with a count of 7 ayes and 0 nays. Motion passed.

Cheves advised members that any committee members that could attend the 07/20 meeting would be appreciated. It would show to Council members that this Committee felt it was an important issue.

With Council approval, the agreement then goes to the WPPI executive committee. Their next meeting date is 07/27 at 8:45am CST in Sun Prairie, WI. City Administration and Committee members are encouraged to attend. Members were told to get back the Manager's office by the close of business on 07/17 with an answer of whether or not they could attend. Travel arrangement would be made to leave on 07/26 because of the early start time on the meeting. Accommodations would be made by the Manager's Office.

PR mailings it was decided would be the same list of city residents who receive the yearly mailing from the water dept. The list of residents would be supplied to WPPI to coordinate the mailings.

Cheves pointed out to committee members that at this point, the cost-sharing agreement is our #1 focus. LD&B, he said, gave us a proposal to rewrite Robert's spreadsheets for \$9000. Originally they had gone over his work for \$6000. Cheves reported we are going no further with this at this time.

CT Article-Fulsher

Fulsher unable to make the meeting due to prior commitments. The CT article he was to write is still on hold. Mellinger mentioned possible having someone else write the article as it has been some time since it was assigned to Fulsher and still not done. Skerbeck brought up the fact that we should maybe move forward and forget the CT article. Focus on what is ahead for the City. Doug presented to the committee that he and Gil would have a prepared statement ready for the Press and other media to distribute after the 07/20 Council meeting. Cheves pointed out that it is important to be prepared to address the CT issue but let the people know we are being proactive. Let them know we are moving on and addressing a new issue for the City. Members were advised that a statement would be prepared and e-mailed to members before the 7/20 meeting.

Time of Use-Mike Furmanski

Item will be kept on the agenda. 9 residential customers have signed up to date, no commercial or industrial users have signed up. Mike and the Doug still have some items to go through with the project.

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.