

UTILITY COMMITTEE
Monday, February 6, 2023
6:00pm

PRESENT: Members Turchi, Hegy, Carroll, Sikora

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Utilities Brian Rhodes

Call to Order – Alderperson Turchi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers of Hartford City Hall, 109 North Main Street.

Public Comment Period – None.

Update on Electric Service Interruptions and Water Main Breaks – Director of Utilities Brian Rhodes provided an update on the following:

1. On January 25, at the 300 block of Garfield Lane, a fencing company hit secondary wires which caused the transformer fuse to fail. The line crew repaired the damaged cable and restored power. 6 customers were affected.
2. On January 20, on Highway K near Eagle Point Road, a 12-inch cast iron water main broke. It was repaired the same day.

Update on substation security – Director Rhodes explained the city is going to be taking some proactive measures to increase security around the substations. There are already security fences and locks on the fences and equipment. Surveillance cameras and monitoring equipment are going to be added. There are ongoing discussions with other communities as well as WPPI as to what the best practices are going forward.

Discussion and consideration of purchasing twenty 50 KVA transformers from RESCO at a cost not to exceed \$48,320 – Director Rhodes explained that lead times are still being estimated to be about a year out for pad-mounted transformers. It was determined, after inventory review, that this order should be placed now to supply current and future projects, as well as to cover any emergencies. RESCO advised that they only had a lead time of 26 weeks.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Sikora approving the purchase of twenty 50 KVA transformers from RESCO at a cost not to exceed \$48,320.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion and consideration of purchasing 76,772 feet of various sizes of overhead and underground secondary conductors from Border States Electric at a cost of \$108,223.52 – After reviewing CIP projects and current inventory levels, it was decided that this order is necessary in order to supply those projects as well as projects in Slinger and to increase inventory levels.

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Sikora approving the purchase of 76,772 feet of various sizes of overhead and underground secondary conductors from Border States Electric at a cost of \$108,223.52.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion and consideration of purchasing 15,000 feet of overhead secondary triplex cable from Border States Electric at a cost of \$36,518.70 – Director Rhodes explained this is a continuation of the previous item, but this was bid out as these cables are not competitively bid through WPPI. This has a 48-week lead time.

Utility Committee (02/06/2023)

MOTION by Alderperson Hegy, seconded by Alderperson Sikora approving the purchase of 15,000 feet of overhead secondary triplex cable from Border States Electric at a cost of \$36,518.70
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion and consideration of entering into an agreement with Answering Innovations to provide after-hours dispatch services for Hartford Electric and the Water Utility – Director Rhodes explained that Chief MacFarland, Chief Stephans and himself have been discussing the impact of after-hours emergency utility calls on the police dispatch center. The concern has been growing that as more calls for emergency utility come in, dispatchers are not going to be available for other emergency calls. Director Rhodes reached out to other communities to see how they are handling similar issues. Based on this information, Answering Innovations provided the best rate and cost structure that would meet the city’s needs. The annual cost would be \$1800 - \$2000.

Alderperson Carroll asked how citizens would be informed of this change. Director Rhodes explained that social media would be utilized, website announcements would be posted, along with flyers in bills going out to residents. He also consulted with WPPI and Answering Innovations to see what suggestions they had for getting the information out to residents.

MOTION to approve entering into an agreement with Answering Innovations to provide after-hours dispatch services for Hartford Electric and the Water Utility; was seconded.
MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

UTILFEB6.23