

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE UTILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
GARDNER, KANSAS**

Page No. 2019-07  
May 2, 2019

The Utilities Advisory Commission of Gardner, Kansas, met in Regular Session on May 2, 2019, at City Hall. Present were Chairman Andrew Krievins, Commissioner Gary Williams, Commissioner Barbara Coleman, Utilities Department Director Gonzalo Garcia, Administrative Assistants Cindy Weeks and Erin Groh and one member of the public.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Andrew Krievins.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Standing approval of the minutes as written for the March 7, 2019, meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission.**

Motion by Commissioner Gary Williams, seconded by Barbara Coleman, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried 3-0 Aye

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consider a recommendation to the City council to authorize a Solar Feasibility Study.**

Director Gonz Garcia presented the staff report.

Director Garcia noted that costs can vary and that the study would help identify if it would be cost effective and how much it would cost for the installation and management of solar panels. He also stated that the study would determine if Gardner is a good location for solar panels and where the best place would be for the panels to be installed.

Commissioner Williams asked why we would want to do the study when solar power and its benefits have been fully researched by many in the past. Director Garcia responded that technology has been proven, but costs can vary so the study would help determine the return on investment. Director Garcia added that five megawatts of power would require five acres of land. Commissioner Coleman asked if the solar panels would reduce the amount of energy we're purchasing now. Director Garcia responded that solar energy would replace part of the power.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman to make a recommendation to the City Council to request proposals for a solar feasibility study. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Williams felt that more discussion would be needed to make a determination on whether or not the UAC should make a recommendation to City Council to determine if a solar feasibility study is necessary.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to table discussion of the Solar Feasibility Study to the June 6, 2019 meeting.

Motion carried 3-0 Aye

**2. Consider a recommendation to the City Council to authorize replacement of an aging truck #409 for Electric Substation and Generation personnel.**

Director Garcia presented the staff report.

Director Garcia stated that at Electric Generation there are two trucks: An F150 2 x 4 (Truck #409) and a 2500 4 x 4 (Truck #404). Usually because of weather, the F150 cannot go into substation areas due to lack of traction, so most of the time the 2500 is used. Staff recommends the replacement of the F150 with a 2500 4 x 4 with a lift gate.

Commissioner Williams asked why a bigger truck is needed. Director Garcia stated that the 2500 truck is used for doing such tasks as taking nitrogen bottles and transformers to the substations which requires a more heavy-duty truck. Commissioner Coleman stated that the replacement code was incorrect and that it should be corrected before moving on to City Council. The total maintenance cost had not been factored into the final replacement code in the VERP document, so the replacement number was incorrect. Director Garcia agreed that the replacement code would be corrected prior to the June 6 meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to table discussion of the replacement of truck #409 to the June 6, 2019 meeting.

Motion carried 3-0 Aye

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Electric Outage Report**

Director Garcia presented the Electric Outage Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2019. Electric staff responded to 6 outages affecting 163 customers: 3 caused by equipment failures, 1 caused by animals, and 9 due to damage by storms. The average workday response time was 4 minutes and the average workday length of outage was 55 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 37 minutes and the average after-hours length of outage was 2 hours and 55 minutes. The overall average response time was 20 minutes and the overall average length of outage was 1 hour and 55 minutes.

**2. 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Wastewater Collection Repairs Report.**

Director Garcia presented the Wastewater Collection Repairs Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2019. Line maintenance staff completed 7 sanitary sewer line repairs affecting 4 customers: 4 caused by roots, 2 due to damage by others, and 1 due to other causes. The average workday response time was 16 minutes and the average workday repair time was 8 hours and 39 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 27 minutes and the average after-hours repair time was 1 hour and 52 minutes. The overall average response time was 19 minutes and the overall average repair time was 6 hours and 42 minutes.

**3. 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Water Distribution Repairs Report.**

Director Garcia presented the Water Distribution Repairs Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2019. Line maintenance staff completed 9 water distribution service repairs affecting 88 customers: 2 due to hardware failures, 1 due to main line failures, 1 due to service line failures, 2 hydrant repairs, 2 due to damages by others, and 1 due to other causes. The average workday response time was 38 minutes and the average workday repair time was 1 hour and 56 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 18 minutes and the average after-

hours repair time was 1 hour and 54 minutes. The overall average response time was 29 minutes and the overall average repair time was 1 hour and 55 minutes.

**4. Project updates- Electric, Line Maintenance, Wastewater and Water.**

Director Garcia gave the Electric Distribution project updates:

- Crews relocated a streetlight transformer and cable, installed a new power pole in preparation for the construction of the Belfonte Carwash.
- Crews completed installing 3" conduit, transformer pad, and cabinet at the golf course for the new electric service that will serve the irrigation pump house.
- Crews conducted a scheduled electric outage Friday, March 15, at 647 Woodson Ln. to replace a leaking padmount transformer and damaged primary elbow. Fifty customers were affected for 1 hr. and 30 min.
- Personnel continued working on the 2018 CIP Project Padmount Switchgear Replacement project.
- Crews replaced a leaking padmount transformer at Trail Ridge Middle School.
- Crews bored in and completed installation of new primary electric cable to replace failed primary cable at 127 E. Colleen Dr.
- Completed installation of the primary electric underground cable at 740 N. Laurel St. in the Austin Reserve subdivision for a back feed.

Director Garcia gave the Wastewater Treatment facility project updates:

- Replaced #1 non-potable pump motor in U.V. room.
- The overhead crane installation at the Kill Creek Lift Station was completed.
- Conducted inspections and assisted Crossland Contractors with the wet well tie in for the South Lift Station Storage Tank Project.

Director Garcia gave the Water Treatment facility project updates:

- Raw pump #3 was returned by Fairbanks. It has been installed and put back into service.
- Burns & Mac set pressure recorders on the transmission line.
- The radio for SCADA at the water plant failed. Systems Manufacturing began to investigate. First step was to ground the surge filter in the control cabinet.
- Work continues on the lightning protection system project.
- A new VFD was installed and programmed for the High Service Pump #2, which has been returned to service.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Krievins stated his appreciation to the utilities staff for all of their hard work and commended their excellent response times.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Motion carried 3-0 Aye

/s/ Cindy Weeks  
Utilities Department Administrative Assistant