



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole & BWL Commissioners
Tuesday, July 19, 2022
REO Town Depot

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Hussain and Commission Member Price called the meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. with brief introductions.

PRESENT

Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Carol Wood- excused
Councilmember Jeremy A. Garza
Council Member Brian T. Jackson
Councilmember Peter Spadafore-excused
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Brian Daniels- excused
Councilmember Jeffrey Brown
Commission Member Price
Commission Member James
Commission Member Graham
Commission Member Leek
Commission Member Zerkle
Commission Member Mullen
Commission Member Horwitt
Commission Member Thomas
Commission Member Merrill
Commission Member Jester- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
LaVella Todd, Corporate Secretary
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Jane Bais-DeSessa, Mayor's Office
Dick Peffley, BWL General Manager
Mark Matus, BWL General Counsel
Heather Shawa, BWL Chief Financial Officer
Steve Serkaian, BWL Customer Operations & Communications
Brandi Ekren, BWL Strategic Planning & Development

Breina Pugh, BWL Community Relations
Calvin Jones, Government Relations
Maria Koutisoukos, BWL
Kellie Christensen, Strategic Planning

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

Status/Update on Current city/LBWL Projects (i.e. Update on GM Battery Plant contract)

Mr. Peffley updated the group that they have broken ground and the contract with BWL is still being negotiated. The project is a 30% load increase for BWL. In addition they are currently working with 12 other companies who have voiced interest in working in the City.

Mr. Peffley added that they are embarking on a watermain project, looking to replace all the water infrastructure, increasing to 8 miles a year. This will begin in phases with 1 mile, 3 miles, 5 miles working their way up to 8 miles. This is removing streets, putting in infrastructure and then replacing. Most work will be in house workforce.

Mr. Leek asked Mr. Peffley asked what percentage of watermain will be in house, and Mr. Peffley stated 7 miles in house.

Council President Hussain asked if removal is full removal of road. Mr. Peffley said it will be the location of the main.

Possibility of Joint Annual Trainings Between LBWL and City (i.e., Anti-Harassment/Sensitivity, etc.)

Commissioner James stated she asked this to be on the agenda because of questions raised during her interview with Council for the Board. She voiced her interest any trainings they can participate with. Council President Hussain stated Council has annual in house training from OCA, and during interviews when asked, Council was hoping that BWL Board members were also participating in similar trainings. Chairman Price stated they do the same ethics training. Mr. Smiertka confirmed and stated if the Boards wants to have the same training as Council they can do that. Commissioner James confirmed they have had ethics and DEI training, asking for additional training. Mr. Smiertka stated if Mr. Mattus wanted to submit a list to the OCA they can put something together.

Status of Implementation of LBWL Strategic Plan

Ms. Kellie Christenson spoke briefly about the restructuring the division. Topics include plan recommendations, update resource plans for the new loads, and focus on energy reduction plans. Ms. Christenson added details on electric vehicle plans, solar plans, and will look at new programs for carbon neutrality. Council Member Jackson asked for suggestions for carbon neutrality. Ms. Christenson said pursuing programs with being creative for measuring, and also looking at other states out west on their experience. Council Member Garza asked if there are any thoughts of harnessing electricity from the Grand River. Mr. Peffley said they look at it, but the flow on the river is too slow. Commissioner Zerkle asked if BWL submits the strategic plan to Council annually, and it was confirmed.

Erickson Update

Mr. Peffley updated the group on the Erickson plant; in 2020 they started evaluating the soils and since then have installed 17 wells on site and are working with EGLE. Of 23 wells they offered alternative drinking water, 17 accepted, and they are in close contact with them. Erickson site is not having any impact on the BWL drinking system or BWL customers. So far

the ground water investigation does not point to BWL. Most of the levels were below the action level for adults, but somewhat higher for a child should drink of boron lithium. They have taken the ash off site, and feel confident that 10 years ago they spent \$10 million removing the source. He reiterated they are working with the home owners, compiling with what EGLE has asked. They still need more time to figure out the cause. Commissioner James asked Mr. Peffley if he anticipates there will be any legal action brought against the board, and Mr. Peffley stated he does not believe that will happen. He confirmed it is not the BWL problem, this is owned by Delta and Diamondale. Commissioner James asked how long, and she was told 2 years for resolution by Mr. Peffley.

Five Year Tree Trimming Cycle Update

Mr. Peffley confirmed they are in year 3, and trimming 5-6 years growth, and anything they cut, they are chipping and not having to leave wood left on sites. Tree removals now are being requested by the homeowner. Commissioner Mullen asked if they are moving to inhouse crews, and Mr. Peffley stated they are up to 3 inhouse crews. Council Member Jackson asked the BWL replanting process. Mr. Peffley confirmed they will provide trees if someone calls and asks for some, and now are more in the management of trees. Council Member Jackson asked if any neighborhoods have asked for some, and BWL stated there is a neighborhood grant program, and this year they did 60 trees. There were some on the west side, south Lansing near Alfred Schmidt, Frandora Hills for example. There are usually 60 per neighborhood, and one neighborhood was turned down because the request was too large.

Council Member Garza asked who was the first in outage restore. Mr. Peffley stated it is based on the average outage time per year, BWL 15 minutes 30 seconds, and Holland average is 15 minutes. He then provided information on when the train took down power lines at Hagadorn; 24 poles which effected 4200 customers. BWL was able to replace 24 poles in 18 hours.

Rolling Blackouts Imposed by Regional Power Grid Regulator

Mr. Peffley stated that the regulation agency, some states rely on energy sources and they are nervous on the month of July. BWL did put out the press release and held a meeting, outlining what is required, and the plan. Ohio has already had one where they did two days with rolling black outs of 12 hours. BWL spoke to staff and suggested 20 minutes rolling black outs as options since BWL is only getting 30 minute notice. The intent is to shed a circuit and after 20 minutes they would shed a new circuit and bring the first one back on, they would not shed circuits that are contiguous, it will not be on the outage map because they do not want to broadcast where there will be outages. Mr. Peffley concluded by stating probability is low this year, but wanted to be transparent. Again he stated the governmental regulation authority is not giving BWL options, it has to be done. Council Member Garza asked about the impact with electronic vehicles being more popular would there be more rolling black outs. Mr. Peffley stated if there are rolling blackout in Lansing, because someone hasn't planned adequately, it is not fair for that energy to be taken. Commissioner Zerkle asked if there is a safety system with the City to make them aware it will happen so LPD can address traffic lights, etc. Mr. Peffley confirmed they do have excellent communications with the City and the surrounding townships and County. Council President Hussain asked what would be the impact, if any, the plan for hospitals. Mr. Peffley stated they will not turn off critical infrastructure. Commissioner Price asked if it is possible BWL would ask the larger manufacturers to shed more. Mr. Peffley stated if there is more of a notice than 30 minutes they could consider asking. Commissioner Leek asked about adult foster care, and Mr. Peffley stated that is more problematic with manual circuit shut off, and mostly likely they will go out and there would be no liability because it is mandate by the Federal government. Commissioner Zerkle asked about residents that have oxygen in their home they need. Mr. Peffley stated there is a list people can get on with BWL, but they will be advised for 20-25 minutes

without power. Council Member Brown asked if BWL has the opportunity to connect with licensed service providers, to inform them so they can organizational prepare if it happened. Mr. Peffley when press release went out they met one on one with people who contacted them, but those were mostly commercial customers. He stated he could look into that and consider another press release with those licensed service facilities.

Ms. Bais- DeSessa formally introduced herself.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:25p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the City of Lansing Committee of the Whole on July 25, 2022