

**CITY OF TWO RIVERS CITY COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING OF THE UTILITIES COMMITTEE AND
PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 2, 2023
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers – City Hall**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Dahlke at 6:04 PM

Roll Call

Personnel & Finance Committee Members present were Jeff Dahlke, Bonnie Shimulunas, and Adam Wachowski. Utility Committee Members present were Darla LeClair and Jeff Dahlke. Utility Committee Member Tim Petri was absent. Members of City Staff present were Gregory Buckley, City Manager; Matt Heckenlaible, City Engineer; Andrew Sukowaty, Water Director; Brian Dellemann, Electric Director; Scott Ahl, Assistant City Engineer; Dave Casebeer, Wastewater Utility Superintendent; and David Buss, Finance Director.

2024 Budget Review

Electric Utility Director Dellemann presented the Electric Budget for 2024. This budget includes a wage rate increase for all Electric Utility employees to remain competitive with other area utilities in the area. Budgeted revenues and the related purchased power expense are projected to decrease due to the decrease in the PCAC (Power Cost Adjustment Clause) from increased cost that were experienced in 2022. Various aspects and line items of the budget were discussed. Motion made by Shimulunas, second by Wachowski, to recommend this budget with amendment of the wage increase to be 4% for employees with post-retirement health insurance benefit and 6% for employees without post-retirement health insurance benefit instead of 8% to the City Council. Motion carried 2-1. Public Utilities Committee made the identical motion by Dahlke, second by LeClair. Motion vote was 1-1.

Electric Utility Director Dellemann continued with the Telecommunications budget. Expenses are budgeted to increase to cover the cost of City Wi-Fi Hot Spot downtown and at Neshotah Beach. Motion to approve the budget as recommended by Wachowski, second by Shimulunas. Motion carried. Public Utilities Committee made the identical motion by Dahlke, second by LeClair. Motion carried.

Water Utility Director Sukowaty presented the Water Utility budget. The budget reflects a 6.75% increase in revenues and a 4.14% increase in expenses. The committee discussed the performance of the filtration modules and other aspects of budget. The impact of funding of the GIS employee position was discussed at length. Motion to approve the budget with the elimination of the GIS employee by Wachowski, second by Dahlke. Motion carried, 2-1. Public Utilities Committee made the identical motion by Dahlke, second by LeClair. Motion carried.

City Engineer Heckenlaible presented the Wastewater Utility budget, which includes a 4% revenue rate increase. Operating expenses are budgeted to increase 4.73% over the 2023 budget. The committee discussed various operating issues and goals for the utility, including the impact of the GIS employee position on this utility. Motion to approve the budget with the elimination of the GIS employee by Wachowski, second by Dahlke. Motion carried, 2-1. Public Utilities Committee made the identical motion by Dahlke, second by LeClair. Motion carried.

City Engineer Heckenlaible also presented the Stormwater Utility budget, which includes a 52.29% increase in operating expenses, mainly driven by the shifting of Street Sweeping activities from the Solid Waste Utility to the Stormwater Utility and the funding of a portion of the GIS employee position. The committee discussed the budget and various activities of the utility and potential upcoming projects and equipment needs. Motion to approve the budget with the elimination of the GIS employee by Wachowski, second by Dahlke. Motion carried, 2-1. Public Utilities Committee made the identical motion by Dahlke, second by LeClair. Motion carried.

City Engineer Heckenlaible also presented the Solid Waste Utility, which includes a budgeted increase in the Environmental Fee charge from \$7 per month to \$8 per month. This would result in a 5.24% increase in budgeted revenues. Expenses are budgeted to decrease 1.58%, driven mainly by the removal of the Street Sweeping

activity from this utility. Various aspects of the budget were discussed by committee members, including the pros and cons of increasing the garbage sticker fees versus the environmental fee. Motion to approve the budget, with a shift of the revenue increase to be on the garbage sticker fee (from \$2.50 to \$3.00) instead of the environmental fee by Wachowski, second by Dahlke. Motion carried. Public Utilities Committee made the identical motion by Dahlke, second by LeClair. Motion carried.

Date and Time for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Personnel and Finance Committee will be Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Wachowski, seconded by Shimulunas, to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 PM. Motion carried. Public Utilities Committee made the identical motion by Dahlke, second by LeClair. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D B', with a horizontal line underneath.

David Buss, Finance Director