

**UTILITY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**  
**6:15pm**

PRESENT: Members Turchi, Webb, Regan

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Utilities Brian Rhodes, Wastewater Director Dan Dentice, City Administrator Steve Volkert

Call to Order – Alderperson Turchi called the meeting to order at 6:15 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 June 10, near the Sunset Drive and Fairview Drive area, an outage was caused by a squirrel making contact with equipment in the substation. The line crew removed the squirrel and restored power. This outage affected about 80 customers.
2. On June 30, on Wheelock Avenue near East Loos Street, a water main break was reported. This was a 6-inch cast iron water main and was repaired on the same day.

Update on Well #10 – Director Rhodes explained that during a required inspection, a new DNR requirement is that the well undergo a soak test, to see if there were any leaks of groundwater going into the reservoir. The results indicated that there was a small amount of leakage. A quick repair was attempted, in order to allow time to get a permanent repair into the budget, but the quick repair was unsuccessful. An overall emergency repair is now required, which includes keeping everything out of service until the reservoir is fixed. The city will be working with the DNR to get this repair completed quickly. The DNR needs to review the repair and approve it, then the plan can be taken to contractors for bids. Hopefully, this will be back before the council for approval sometime in August. The anticipated cost of the repair is somewhere between \$120,000 and \$150,000. Director Rhodes explained that he will be proposing using funds originally budgeted for a mobile generator to cover the cost of this repair now, while moving the generator purchase to 2026.

Alderperson Turchi asked if there were any concerns with supply chain issues and pushing back the purchase of the generator. Director Rhodes said the generator generally has a 20-week lead time, so he is not concerned about the availability of the generator. Alderperson Turchi asked if there was a way to complete both projects in the same budget year. Director Rhodes confirmed that they could be done simultaneously, but that he felt more comfortable only doing one project at a time. Administrator Volkert explained that both projects could be completed at the same time and that the next audit would show a decrease in the rate of return because cash on hand would be utilized to cover the additional cost. The Utilities Fund Balance could also be utilized to cover the cost.

Alderperson Regan and Webb both commented that the generator should stay on schedule to be purchased this year, along with completing the well repair.

Director Rhodes will bring back the generator purchase to the committee next month.

Discussion and consideration of approving the Wastewater Department certification incentive – Director Dentice explained that this is an annual requirement from the DNR. The city was graded a 4.0 which indicates that everything is operating smoothly. Alderperson Carroll asked if there were any items that were trending toward needing action. Director Dentice indicated that since this is an annual report, things are maintained on a continual basis. This prevents things from deteriorating to the point of the DNR requiring action.

Utility Committee (07/11/2023)

MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Webb approving the 2022 Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Maintenance Annual Report.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment – MOTION by Alderperson Carroll, seconded by Alderperson Webb for adjournment. Alderperson Turchi adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shanna Kreilkamp, City Clerk

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