

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020
8:30 AM

Present: Evelyn O. Shaw, Chairwoman
D. Ralph Huff, III, Secretary
Darsweil L. Rogers, Treasurer

Others Present: David W. Trego, CEO/General Manager
PWC Staff
Media

Absent: Wade R. Fowler, Jr., Vice Chairman
Telly Whitfield, Assistant City Manager
Christopher Davis, City Council Liaison
Melissa Adams, Hope Mills Town Manager/Liaison

REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairwoman Evelyn Shaw called the meeting of Wednesday, March 11, 2020, to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairwoman Shaw noted Commissioner Fowler is away on travel. Upon motion by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Huff, the agenda was unanimously approved.

CONSENT ITEMS

Upon motion by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Huff, Consent Items were unanimously approved.

- A. Approve Minutes of meeting of February 26, 2020
- B. Approve bid recommendation to award contract for the Maiden Lane Sanitary Sewer and Water Relocation – Phase II Project to ES&J Enterprises, Inc., Autryville, NC, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder in the total amount of \$1,724,425.00, and forward to City Council for approval.

Note: This project includes installation of approximately 1,100 feet of 12-inch sanitary sewer main (including a 12-inch sanitary sewer aerial across Cross Creek), and approximately 1,200 feet of 12-inch and 8-inch water mains, as well as abandonment of existing sanitary sewer and water mains, including an 8-inch sanitary sewer aerial crossing. The project also includes replacement of sanitary sewer and water services.

The Maiden Lane Sanitary Sewer and Water Relocation – Phase II Project is funded from CIP WS5 (CPR1000088) Water and from CIP WS55 (CPR1000128) Sewer.

Bids were received on February 20, 2020, as follows:

<u>Bidders</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
ES&J Enterprises, Inc., Autryville, NC	\$1,734,425.00
T. A. Loving Company, Goldsboro, NC	\$2,200,500.00

COMMENTS: Notice of bid was advertised through our normal channels on January 15, 2020, with an original bid opening date of February 6, 2020. Addendum No. 1 was issued January 28, 2020; the addendum was to provide minutes from the Pre-Bid meeting on January 22, 2020, as well as answers to bidder’s questions, and revisions to technical specifications and drawings. Addendum No. 2 was issued on February 7, 2020, to re-advertise the project with a new bid opening date of February 20, 2020, @ 2pm, as the originally scheduled bid opening failed to produce three (3) bids. **SDBE/Local:** ES&J Enterprises, Inc., is a certified DBE and WBE. The bidder plans to subcontract with Ashley L. Hauling, Godwin, NC, for hauling needs in the amount of \$15,000.00; and Highland Paving, Fayetteville, NC, for paving needs in the amount of \$125,000.00.

- C. Approve bid recommendation to award bid for the purchase of 500 LED Luminaires, Roadway Type III Distribution, and 700 Luminaire Brackets (with the option to purchase additional quantities up to three additional years, upon the agreement of both parties) to Anixter International, Inc., Wake Forest, NC, and Wesco Distribution, Inc., Clayton, NC, the lowest responsive, responsible bidders in the total amount of \$163,925.00 & \$113,015.00 respectively, and forward to City Council for Approval.

The LED Luminaires and Luminaire Brackets are budgeted in Electric Inventory.

Bids were received February 18, 2020, as follows:

<u>Bidders</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<i>LED Luminaire Type III</i>	
Anixter International, Inc., Wake Forest, NC	\$163,925.00
Wesco Distribution, Inc., Clayton, NC	\$165,000.00
<i>Luminaire Brackets</i>	
Wesco Distribution, Inc., Clayton, NC	\$113,015.00
Anixter International Inc., Wake Forest, NC	\$113,729.00
Shealy Electrical, Greenville, SC	\$213,325.00

COMMENTS: Notice of bid was advertised through our normal channels on January 14, 2020. Bids were solicited from five (5) prospective vendors, with three (3) bidders responding. Bidders could bid on any or all of the items. **SDBE/Local Participation:** Anixter International, Inc., and Wesco Distribution, Inc., are not SDBE and will provide the products with their own workforces.

- D. Approve PWC Resolution # PWC2020.01

Resolution Directing the Filing of a State Revolving Loan Application for the PO Hoffer WTP/Glenville Lake WTP Reliability Improvements project currently estimated at approximately \$10.7M.

Staff recommends the Commission adopt the resolution directing staff to file a State Revolving Loan application for the PO Hoffer WTP/Glenville Lake WTP Reliability Improvements

END OF CONSENT

COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF STAFF'S RECOMMENDED MAY 1, 2020, ELECTRIC RATE CHANGES/ADDITIONS, ADJUSTMENTS TO FEES AND SERVICE REGULATION UPDATES AND FEES

Mr. Trego, CEO/General Manager reminded Commission staff made a presentation two meetings ago, and there was a Public Hearing during the last meeting regarding the Electric Rate Changes.

He stated staff requests approval of the recommended May 1, 2020, Electric Rate changes/additions, adjustment to fees and service regulation updates as presented by staff and made available to the public.

Commissioner Rogers motioned to accept staff's May 1, 2020, Electric Rate Changes, Additions, Adjustments to Fees and Service Regulation Updates & Fees. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Huff and unanimously approved. It was noted that though Commissioner Fowler is not in attendance, he agreed with the staff's recommendation as well.

Chairwoman Shaw opened the floor for comments from the Commissioners/staff regarding the Electric Rate decrease as of May 1st.

Commissioner Rogers stated the idea we gave the citizens a 4.7% rate decrease is a testament. He applauded the staff for their diligence through our consultant for leveraging the threat of going out and bidding against Duke as a basis for them to come clean that they were charging us more than they should have. The rate decrease is real money in people's pockets today. We should absolutely, positively communicate it in a more proactive way than we have. In fact, he will communicate it when he is on the radio on Friday. Additional discussion ensued.

Mr. Trego stated the Commission, realizing the we will not begin to see the impacts of the Duke concessions until January of next year, they stated we need to look at this and give the customers relief immediately.

Commissioner Huff stated he concurs with Commissioner Rogers. He stated in Duke's defense, since the earlier contract was let, a lot of things have changed, for example, the cost of fuel. We have certainly let the bar for a substantial reduction and a substantial conservation of breaks for this long term agreement.

Commissioner Shaw stated whenever this organization and its Commissioners see an opportunity to put real value on being a Hometown Utility, we do so. We are not answering

to any stockholders who would be up in arms that we would take any savings and give it back to our ratepayers, Because we are a Hometown Utility and are not answerable to any stockholders we are able to do that and we do it unstintingly. It is key. We are open to making sure our ratepayers see the value of being customers of PWC.

Mr. Trego stated obviously Commissioner Fowler it not here but wanted it to be known that if he were here, he would have voted in the affirmative. He mirrors a lot of the comments of the commissioners and he feels it is a proactive and great thing for our customers.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

115th PWC Anniversary

Mr. Trego stated last week was our 115th Anniversary. He stated since last Friday was National Employees' Day, we combined the two events and invited employees to refreshments and displayed a lot of memorabilia that we have collected over the years.

Pedestrian Light Poles

Mr. Trego stated we have done considerable work with the City and the Cool Springs District in utilizing the pedestrian light poles downtown. We have basically completed the work.

Mr. Rynne went on to state in the downtown area there was a myriad of attachments on the pedestrian lights. It appears they were added over time. In order to facilitate our placing decorations on the poles during the Christmas season, we wanted to standardize what was on the poles, so we can work more efficiently. He asked his engineers to look for something that was more aesthetically pleasing and facilitate putting on the Christmas lights. We have installed new banner arms, which replace the ones that were there (attached by a stainless steel clamp). Also, we have installed a new GFI set-up. We had to remove the wrapped around lights to make the pedestrian poles more standardized. Once completed they will be much more secure; and up to the code, protecting anyone who may come into contact with them. The crews are also installing flag poles.

Mr. Rynne stated this is unique to a hometown utility. He estimates the project costs PWC approximately \$80,000.00.

Coronavirus

Mr. Trego stated the coronavirus is receiving a lot of press, and it has not escaped us as an organization. PWC has a section in our Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan a section that deals with pandemics. We have something that addresses it in a general fashion and how we would react as an organization to a pandemic. It is a very general policy, and it is done so because each situation may be different. If we invoke the emergency policy and open up the EOC it allows Mr. Trego and senior staff to take other actions regarding procedures and policies as it deals with employees and our interactions with customers should be need to react, such as working from home; restricting business activities; meetings; and things along those lines. Also putting in place leave policies to adapt to the situation at hand. Mr. Trego stated we are ensuring we have enough cleaning and sanitary supplies on hand. He went on to explain

in more detail the different ways we are ensuring the employees are safe and have taken the proper measures to react when this becomes a bigger issue in the Fayetteville area.

Mr. Trego stated we were approached by the County to become a point of dispensary if there is an emergency that needs a vaccine or if there is an outbreak. This will give us priority status as a governmental entity to take care of our employees and to dispense to them. We have already arranged and signed an agreement with the County. He stated we also have a nurse on staff who is available to assist employees and answer their questions.

Mr. Trego also stated he is eliminating all discretionary travel for our employees, as a precaution for them. Even if a meeting is critical, we will look at teleconferences, as opposed to face to face meetings. We want to have the health and safety of our employees at the forefront; to be pro-active as opposed to reactive, but still operate the business daily.

Mr. Trego then asked PWC Nurse, Deanna Talton to give an update regarding the COVID-9 virus. Ms. Talton updated the Commission on the progression of the virus to-date; the precautions high risk individuals should take; the limited supply of testing kits; and the information that is being disseminated. Staff responded to questions and comments from Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER/LIAISON COMMENTS

No Commissioner/Liaison Comments

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

- A. Personnel Report – February 2020
- B. Position Vacancies
- C. Approved N.C. Department of Transportation Encroachment Agreement(s):
 - Encr. #18838 – Install of RJDJ watermain and tapping sleeve and valve on SR 1415 (Yadkin Rd.)
- D. Actions by City Council during the meeting of February 24, 2020, related to PWC:
 - Approved Resolution Directing Construction of Area 32 East Section 1 of the Phase 5 Annexation Utility Improvement Project be Undertaken.
 - Approved Phase 5 Annexation Areas 24 B&C Preliminary Assessment Resolution to be Adopted and Public Hearing
 - Delayed Decision on Phase 5 Annexation Area 25 Preliminary Assessment Resolution
 - Approved Bid Recommendation – Prefabricated Relay Control House for Bordeaux Substation.
 - Approved Bid Recommendation – Relay Control Switchboards for Bordeaux Substation
 - Approved Bid Recommendation – Structures and Equipment for Bordeaux Substation
- E. Financial Statement Recaps
 - Electric – January 2020
 - Water/Wastewater – January 2020
 - Fleet Maintenance Service Fund – January 2020

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon motion by Commissioner Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Huff, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 a.m.