

STOUGHTON UTILITIES COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 21, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Stoughton, WI

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Location: Edmund T. Malinowski Board Room, Stoughton Utilities Administration Office
600 South Fourth Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin
Optional Virtual Participation: GoToMeeting ID 261-751-061

Members Present: Citizen Member Carl Chenoweth, Citizen Member David Erdman, Mayor Tim Swadley, Citizen Member Dustin Thoren (Vice-Chair), Alderperson Jordan Tilleson

Excused: None

Absent: Alderperson Greg Jensen

Others Present: Alderperson Regina Hirsch, Becker Professional Services Community Development Specialist Lisa Moore, Becker Professional Services Vice President Katrina Becker, Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops, Stoughton Utilities Finance Manager Shannon Statz, Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss

Call to Order: Weiss called the regular Stoughton Utilities Committee Meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Chenoweth, Erdman, Swadley, and Thoren were present in person. No members attended virtually.

Verification of Quorum: Weiss verified that a quorum of the committee membership was present. However, it was later determined that the appointment of Hirsch to the Committee had not yet been confirmed by the Stoughton Common Council, and would not be confirmed until April 22, 2025. As a result, the meeting began without a quorum present, until Tilleson arrived at 5:35 pm.

Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law: Weiss certified that the meeting had been properly noticed in compliance with open meetings law.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Election of the Utilities Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: Motion by Chenoweth to nominate Erdman to the position of Stoughton Utilities Committee Chairperson. There were no additional nominations. The nomination carried unanimously 4 to 0 without a quorum present. Due to the lack of quorum, this nomination and election will be taken up at a future meeting.

Tilleson joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Motion by Swadley to nominate Thoren to the position of Stoughton Utilities Committee Vice-Chairperson. There were no additional nominations. The nomination carried unanimously 5 to 0.

Election of the Utilities Committee Liaison and Alternate Liaison to the Stoughton Common Council: No action was taken, and this item will be taken up at a future meeting.

Selection of the Utilities Committee Date and Time: Motion by Erdman, seconded by Thoren, to designate the monthly meeting date to remain the third Monday of the month, and the meeting time to be set as 5:30 p.m. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously 5 to 0.

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Utilities Committee Consent Agenda: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the Stoughton Utilities Committee consent agenda items. Staff highlighted the recent end of the annual cold weather electric disconnection moratorium, and the recent receipt of the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) and Safety Award of Excellence awards from American Public Power (APPA). Discussion followed.

Motion by Chenoweth, the motion seconded by Thoren, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Minutes of the March 17, 2025 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
- b. Stoughton Utilities Payments Due List Report
- c. Stoughton Utilities Investment Summary
- d. Stoughton Utilities Statistical Report
- e. Stoughton Utilities Activities Report
- f. Communications

The motion carried unanimously 5 to 0.

Status of the Utilities Committee recommendation(s) to the Stoughton Common Council: Stoughton Utilities staff presented and discussed the following items from the Stoughton Utilities Committee that were recently approved and/or placed on file by the Stoughton Common Council:

Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the March 17, 2025 Regular Utilities Committee Meeting
2. Stoughton Utilities Payments Due List Reports
3. Stoughton Utilities Activities Report
4. Stoughton Utilities Activities Report

Discussion followed.

Update: PSCW Water Rate Application: Stoughton Utilities staff provided an update on the status of the ongoing water rate application that was submitted to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) in 2024. The final comparison of revenue, cost of service, and proposed rates issued by the PSCW was presented. Information about an upcoming public hearing was shared, which will be shared with all customers as an insert in their May billing statements.

Update: WisDOT 2025 Reconstruction Projects: Stoughton Utilities staff provided an update on the ongoing street reconstruction projects being led by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. This will be a standing item on the committee agenda as the projects are ongoing. Discussion followed.

Update: Stoughton Utilities 2025 Sewer and Water Revenue Bonds Issuance: Stoughton Utilities staff updated the committee on the results of the March 20, 2025 sale of sewer and water utility revenue bonds. The successful bidder for \$1,985,000 in sewer system revenue bonds was Bernardi Securities at 4.0747% and for \$1,485,000 in water system revenue bonds was Brownstone Investment Group, LLC at 4.0286%. Discussion followed.

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Proposed Stoughton Utilities Out-of-State Mutual Aid Billing Policy: Stoughton Utilities staff presented a final draft policy to establish a framework and policy for the billing of costs and expenses related to the provision of out-of-state mutual aid assistance. Discussion followed.

Motion by Chenoweth, the motion seconded by Thoren, to approve the proposed Stoughton Utilities Out-of-State Mutual Aid Billing Policy, and recommend approval to the City of Stoughton Personnel Committee and Common Council at their upcoming meetings. The motion carried unanimously 5 to 0.

Release of Easement Rights to a Platted Utility Easement on Lots 32-43, 77-88, and 97-104: Stoughton Utilities staff presented a request from the developer of the Magnolia Springs Subdivision to release the utility's rights to a platted utility easement that was established during the creation of the certified survey map due to conflicts with an overlapping stormwater easement. Staff explained that a new utility easement is being created as part of the same process, and that there are no concerns with the easement release. Discussion followed.

No action was taken, and this item will be taken up at a future meeting.

Moody's Ratings Credit Opinions for the Water and Wastewater Utilities: Stoughton Utilities staff informed the committee that prior to the issuance of the Stoughton Utilities 2025 water and sewer revenue bonds it was necessary for the utility to request a new rating for the water utility and to establish a rating for the wastewater utility. Moody's Ratings agency provided a rating for both the water and wastewater as an Aa3, an upgrade from the prior A1 rating held by the water utility. Discussion followed.

Stoughton Utilities Facilities – Current System Capacities: Stoughton Utilities staff provided the committee with an update on the current condition and capacities of Stoughton Utilities facilities, including the electric substations; the drinking water distribution system, including groundwater wells, storage reservoir, and storage towers; and the wastewater collection system, including sanitary sewer lift stations, and the wastewater treatment plant.

In summary, Stoughton Utilities does not foresee any challenges handling continued growth in the City of Stoughton and surrounding rural areas, and more than sufficient capacity and redundancy in electric and water distribution and storage, and sufficient treatment plant capacity for increased influent hydraulic loadings without significant capital expense should the utility pursue a rerating of the treatment plant. Discussion followed.

City of Stoughton Comprehensive Plan – Utilities & Community Facilities: Stoughton Utilities staff introduced representatives from Becker Professional Services, Katrina Becker, Vice President, and Lisa Moore, Community Development Specialist, who explained to the committee that they are currently working on behalf of the City of Stoughton to update the city's comprehensive plan for 2026-2049.

A presentation on the comprehensive plan's goals, and the current and projected demographics of Stoughton was provided, after which a facilitated discussion and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) exercise was held. Discussion followed.

Utilities Committee Future Agenda Items: Stoughton Utilities staff informed the committee that future agenda items include the annual financial audit report, the drinking water consumer confidence report, and presentation of the wastewater utility's Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR). Discussion followed.

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Adjournment: Being no further business before the committee, and with concurrence from all members, Erdman adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian R. Hoops

Assistant Stoughton Utilities Director