

AGENDA
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2023

1. **6:00 p.m.** Call **Virtual or In-Person Meeting (your choice)** to order at Township Administrative Office Conference Room, 1281 Hammond Road.
2. Approval of January 12, 2023 Agenda.
3. Approval of November 10, 2022 Minutes.
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Receive Monthly Service Report.
 - b. Receive Republic Call Log.
 - c. Receive Solid Waste Abatement Report.
 - d. Receive Water Leak Report.
 - e. Receive Open Water & Radio Replacement Report.
5. Sue Vento, Met Council Representative.
6. Lumen Fiber Optic Installation - Discussion.
7. Ordinance No. 54 – Comments.
8. Public Works Director Report.
9. Next Meeting Date / Agenda Items.
10. Added Agenda Items.
11. Adjournment.

White Bear Township's
Mission:

To provide White Bear Township residents, businesses and visitors with reliable, equitable, high quality municipal services while serving as open, inclusive and responsible stewards of the public trust.

**MINUTES
UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Bernstein, Cremons, DeLoach, DeMars, Fredericks, Groschen;
Commissioner: McCune; Finance Officer: Kelly; Public Works Director:
Reed

Absent: Clerk: Christopherson, with notice.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Bernstein moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Fredericks seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2022: There was some discussion of the minutes. DeLoach made the motion to approval of the October 13, 2022 minutes. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

NEW MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE -- MICHAEL DEMARS: New member Michael DeMars read the Oath of Office as follows:

"I, Michael DeMars, do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and of the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Utility Commission of the Town of White Bear, in the County of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, to the best of my judgment and ability, so help me God."

DeMars introduced himself to the Commission a bit.

CONSENT AGENDA: Bernstein moved to move all the consent agenda items out for discussion. DeMars seconded. Ayes all.

There was discussion of the Republic Call Log, that the reports were given via PDF and the Commission still wants the Excel file. It would be one less step for them to just send them over. There was a question on the water usage with in the Sewer & Water Third Quarter Report. There was some discussion of how the water usage will go up for Hockey Day MN. The Commission discussed the water usage report in light of the Lake Level Lawsuit.

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DeMars moved to approve the consent agenda as follows: A) Receive Monthly Service Report; B) Receive Republic Call Log; C) Receive Solid Waste Abatement Report; D) Receive Water Leak Report; E) Receive Sewer & Water Third Quarter Report. Bernstein seconded. Ayes: all.

SUE VENTO, MET COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Sue Vento was present to discuss the information she found out from the Met Council regarding televising pipes at the point of sale of a resident's home. The Met Council does not have a policy regarding this, but does favor this approach. Usually home owners will do this at the time of inspection with a plumber who has the equipment to check the pipes. The Met Council does televise their own pipes if there are issues. There was a question to see if Vento could get a list of communities that do have the policy for televising at point of sale. Vento will gather this information and report back to staff to report back at the next meeting.

RATES FOR SEWER ONLY ACCOUNTS: The Town Finance Officer recapped this agenda item. The Commission previously discussed other rates, but there are 60-some residents who have only sewer accounts. The flat rate per quarter is \$55, and has been as such for quite some time (for example, around 10 years or more). Staff is recommending bumping them up to a higher rate. Staff calculated a couple of different methods and laid them out for the Commission. Page 24 in the packet shows the loss based on different sewer rate options. If based on the first method, the cost would increase to \$75 per quarter, but would include irrigation. There was some discussion of not rounding up to the nearest \$5. There was some discussion of the difference between summer usage and winter usage. There was consensus to have the cost be at \$70 even for the sewer only accounts. Staff would wait for the Town Board to approve the change and then send out a notice to all residents in January of all of the changes. There was some discussion of the residents not knowing about the Town Board meeting prior to the change. There was some discussion of staff process in notifying residents of the change. DeMars made the motion to make the change in sewer only accounts to \$70 per quarter. Bernstein seconded. Ayes all.

ORDINANCE NO. 54 -- COMMENTS: The Town Finance Officer recapped this agenda item. The Commission was to go through the Ordinance in between the October and November meetings and give recommendation to the Town Board to increase fees pertaining to the Utility Commission. There was some discussion of the watering issues the Town has seen in the last couple of years, during dry or drought periods. There was lengthy discussion of individual line items within the Ordinance. The trouble with Ordinances like the Watering Ordinance is enforcement. There was lengthy discussion of the Watering Ordinance, how the Town could enforce it. Hypothetical situations were discussed. The Town doesn't want neighbor turning on neighbor, but unless a non-compliance is brought up, generally Town staff doesn't know about it.

DeMars proposed that the Utility Commission discusses further: changing the hours to evenings only from 6 to 9 pm, having 1 warning, and then having a \$500 fee for discussion next meeting. There was some consensus that there should be additional discussion of

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those items mentioned by DeMars, as well as what warnings look like, tiered fines, what surrounding communities do, and information in regards to private wells and watering.

The Commission would like staff to bring the Ordinance in red-lined with the specific proposed changes, what it would look like, or at least gather information based on the listed requests.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Department Activity for October 2022 is in the packet. The Public Works Director discussed some of the sewer items that had previously been discussed. Staff is preparing for **Hockey Day MN**. The Association will be hauling in some tent structures soon, placing rinks, and will fill them as the event draws nearer. All the water and sewer work for **Southeast area phase 3** has been completed and there are a few more smaller things to finish up. The County is finishing up the restoration work, curb and gutter on **South Shore Boulevard**. There was some discussion of the **Water Meter Radios** that have yet to have the water meter, radio, or both installed. The Commission would like to discuss these fines as well next meeting. The **Lead Service Line** needs to be completed in the next 2 years, as a part of the MS4 unfunded mandate through the Met Council. Staff is having to survey all resident owned service lines to make sure they are not lead, but instead copper. There was some discussion of this, and it was noted that residents may be able to take photos and perform a self-survey of their lines in that way. There will be future discussion of this item with the Utility Commission at the February 2023 meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE / AGENDA ITEMS: Typically the Utility Commission has skipped December's meeting. There was some discussion of whether or not to meet with all of the items to discuss.

DeLoach made the motion to skip the December Utility Commission meeting due to conflicts. Cremons seconded. Ayes all.

The next meeting date will be Thursday, January 12, 2023.

There was some discussion of the Annual Town Budget meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

Bernstein moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. DeLoach seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Wede
Recording Secretary

Service Report By Month for White Bear Township



Calls from residents, reported as 'missed pick-ups'

	Trash	YardWaste	Recycle	Totals
JANUARY	4	0	2	6
FEBUARY	6	0	1	7
MARCH	12	0	6	18
APRIL	5	3	2	10
MAY	6	1	1	8
JUNE	15	8	7	30
JULY	7	1	3	11
AUGUST	5	1	2	8
SEPTEMBER	2	4	5	11
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

Possible collection sites per system, per week	3,851
Possible collection sites per system, per month, with 4.33 weeks per month	16,675
Possible collection sites for all routes per month April 1 - Nov 30	50,024
Possible collection sites for all routes per month Dec 1 - March 31	33,350

SOLID WASTE ABATEMENT FROM COLLECTORS

REPORTED BY REPUBLIC SERVICES

FOR THE CITY OF:

White Bear Township

REPORT PERIOD:

Oct-22

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING PARTICIPATION

Total number of possible recycling stops this month: 9,660

Number of actual recycling stops this month: 8,892

Participation: 92%

TOTAL WEIGHT COLLECTED FOR THIS MONTH:

RESIDENTIAL:

Newspaper	66,175
*includes mixed mail, magazines & phonebooks	
Glass	31,391
Cans	11,029
Cardboard- OCC	45,814
Plastic	15,271

TOTAL WEIGHT COLLECTED

169,680 Pounds

Republic Services certifies that the above stated figures are an accurate account and the reported information will not be used for abatement totals or reimbursements for any other city or recycling program.



November 12, 2022

WATERMAIN LEAK REPORT

Number:

Date Reported:

Time Reported:

Address / Location of Leak:

Report Received By:

Description of Rupture or Break:

Probable Cause of Rupture or Break:

Size and Material of Pipe:

Quantity of Water Escaping:

GPM:

Time Crew Reached Site of Leak:

Date:

Time Flow of Water was Stopped:

Date:

Time Water on After Repairs:

Date:

Action Taken to Repair Leak:

Remarks:

Work Performed by: