

**ABSTRACT/SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF  
THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITEWATER, WALWORTH AND  
JEFFERSON COUNTIES, WISCONSIN.**

April 28, 2010

The special meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Council President Singer. MEMBERS PRESENT: Olsen, Binnie, Singer, Kienbaum, Stewart. MEMBERS ABSENT: Taylor, Winship.

Tours of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Public Works Garage, the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, and the City of Whitewater Municipal Building took place. Upon completion of the tours, the Common Council assembled at the City of Whitewater Municipal Building Cravath Lakefront room.

**AUTOMATIC METER READING PRESENTATION.** Water Superintendent Rick Lien made a presentation relating to current water meter reading techniques. He indicated that the current system requires 96 staff hours per quarter to read the meters. The readings are then sorted and given to the Water Clerk for data entry. It was noted that there are approximately 3,600 water meters in the City that must be read, and per City Manager Brunner, the costs to read each meter are approximately \$2.25. In addition, because Whitewater is a University City, there are many additional “final” readings after each semester, when students move.

Water Supt. Lien explained that new technology is available that will allow for automatic meter reading. The plan includes a “read center” at the Municipal Building. Data from the meters would be transmitted to the read center, and water consumption information would be known immediately upon use. Having the optional leak detection function would help citizens immensely in the event they have an unknown leak. Lien cited examples where citizens, unknown to them, had a leak somewhere, and did not know anything was wrong until they received a huge water bill. Even when situations as this occur, most times water bills cannot be cancelled since the water has gone through the sewer system. City Manager Brunner stated that having an automatic meter reading system would eliminate the need to hire people in the future, and would free up the existing workers to do much needed maintenance work. Brunner also stated that at least one large property owner supports the purchase of this system since it would provide up-to-the minute data regarding water use, making it easier for Landlords when tenants move. If the system were purchased, eventually personalized, detailed information could be placed on the internet.

Water Supt. Lien indicated that a great deal of labor and money would be saved if this system were purchased. In addition, Lien believes that the improvements to conservation of water and customer service are priceless. Lien indicated that requests for proposals are being sent to two companies; Badger Meter and Sensus. Lien’s research has shown that these systems are the best ones available.

Lien stated that the approximate cost to replace certain meters and retrofit others and program equipment will run around \$500,000. Installation will cost another \$200,000. It was noted that if this purchase is made, water rates will have to be increased. Once quotations are received and reviewed, they will be brought forth to the Council for consideration. Quotes are due to the City by May 7, 2010.

Being no further business, it was moved by Singer and seconded by Olsen to adjourn the meeting. AYES: Olsen, Binnie, Singer, Kienbaum, Stewart. NOES: None. ABSENT: Winship, Taylor. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele R. Smith, City Clerk

