

May 11, 2011
Joint Council-Utility Board Meeting Minutes

The May 11, 2011 meeting of the Cascade City Council and the Cascade Municipal Utility Board was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Mayor Staner in the City Hall Chambers. Council members Henry Knepper, Moriarity and Soppe answered roll call. Boffeli was absent. Motion by Henry, 2nd Soppe to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Present from the Utility Board were Trustees McDermott and Chairman Gavin, and Utility Manager Benke. Reiter was absent. Motion by McDermott, 2nd Gavin to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Susan Pinckney with Benefit Resources Inc. reported on employee health insurance renewal and changes to policies. (Council member Boffeli joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.) The City's health insurance is slated to increase by 4.52% while the Utilities' increase is 4.69%. Pinckney explained the reasons for changes in policies, which are mainly due to the Federal Health Care Reform requirements. Council members and Utility Board members asked questions and discussed options for renewing with their current policies, seeking new policies and possibly making changes to the Utilities policy. (Utility Board member Reiter joined the meeting at 5:50 p.m.) Pinckney informed all members the deadline for renewal is June 1st with an absolute final date of June 15th set by WellMark. Motion Soppe, 2nd Knepper to renew with the City's current plan with no changes in the policy or to the employee's portion – all ayes. Utility Board will discuss and decide at their regular meeting held after the joint meeting.

Utility Manager Benke reported that JEO Consulting, the firm hired to conduct the Cascade Municipal Utility's electric rate study, recently requested additional information and should have the study finished by the end of May or beginning of June.

Benke reported that the 2011 overhead to underground project is currently focused on the 3 block area of 7th Avenue SW. There are 4 light poles in this area that will either need to be replaced with new decorative poles like those that have been used in other areas or re-use the wood poles. Regardless of which type of pole is used, the poles will need to be relocated and there will be a charge to the City for relocating the power to those poles. Council will discuss which poles to use at their next meeting.

Motion Boffeli, 2nd Henry to seek bids for a 3 or 5 year audit contract since the City and Utilities are now required to have an annual audit – all ayes. Like motion from Reiter, 2nd McDermott – all ayes.

With no other business, motion Boffeli, 2nd Soppe to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:25 p.m. – all ayes.

Shelley Annis, City Clerk/Treasurer