

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

October 13, 2015

MEETING CONVENED: 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Irvine, Chair, John Hornor, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, John Wessells

ABSENT: Kismet Hazelwood, Kass Sheedy

STAFF: Tom Coleman, Director of Public Works & Water Resources

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one from the public that wished to speak

3. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

4. UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATION ON THE LED LIGHT PROJECT/GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Irvine reported that Council voted on October 12th to follow the CAC's recommendation to use the CAC allocated budget money (Green Energy fund money) of \$100,000 towards the down payment of the LED lights.

Mr. Irvine asked the CAC to consider ideas to forward to the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council ("EEAC") to reduce energy. In particular, Mr. Irvine is suggesting coming up with energy efficiency policy ideas to recommend that the City consider to offer to DEMEC so DEMEC can then in turn propose the ideas. He reported that by mid-December by law DEMEC and other utilities in the state are required to come forth with proposals to increase energy efficiency from both industries and customers.

Mr. Coleman reported replacing the water pumps in the City has resulted in substantial savings. He reported a "VFD" (variance frequency drive) had been installed on well #17 and it reduced the monthly electric use at the site by 11,000 kilowatt hours; which over the course of the year is 132 megawatts. A recirculation pump was installed at the reservoir and assuming it runs 9 months out of the year the expected savings is 65 megawatts. This savings represents 20% of the savings of the LED light project. Mr.

McDowell asked if the City parking lots were slated to have LED light installation. Mr. Coleman stated they would be if they were the “cobra head” design.

The payback for the VFD at pump 17 was 26 months and the payback for the pump at the reservoir was 13 months. The financial savings for pump #17 is \$500 per month which is above and beyond the \$700 savings per month from making the pump smaller (when there was a pump failure, a smaller pump was installed). The pump speed can also be adjusted, which can result in water being pumped more efficiently resulting in additional cost savings. Pump #17 was purchased from Delmarva and the reservoir recirculation pump was purchased from DEMEC and will result in a savings of about \$650 per month. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any other pumps that could be replaced resulting in further savings. Mr. Coleman stated the only other pump remaining is the largest City pump that pumps water up to the reservoir. This pump does not run all the time so savings will not be as significant.

Mr. Coleman stated the City building has room for some HVAC improvements. It is not uncommon to have both the air conditioning and the heating systems running simultaneously to cool one section of the building while heating a cold section of the building. He believed the initial plan was to have “partial walls” built enabling proper circulation. However, somewhere along the line the plan was changed and walls were built all the way to the ceiling which changed the air flow considerably.

Mr. Coleman reported in Boulder, CO the local electric utility is offering “micro loans” to efficiency upgrades to their homes. The electric utility will then bill the homeowner the loan payment as part of the utility bill. Mr. Coleman stated he was not sure if the City of Newark could do this as then the City would essentially operate as a bank. However, this may be something DEMEC would consider on a broad scale.

Mr. Prasad suggested researching providing homeowners with an electricity consumption meter. It would show homeowners in “real time” how much electricity they are using which may encourage them to use less (adjust the thermostat on a hot summer day to reduce power consumption). Mr. Coleman stated the City of Newark does not have time of day rates. The rates for electricity are the same for all times of day/night.

Mr. McDowell asked the status of the smart meter installation. Mr. Coleman stated they have all been installed. Mr. Coleman stated he believed the company that installed the smart meters has indoor thermostats that can report the usage, however he is not sure how it works. Mr. Vitelli, Electric Director has more information. Mr. Irvine suggested expanded energy conservation be suggested to the industry class in the City. Mr. Wessells suggested recommending the use of LED’s lighting to all new construction. He also suggested the car dealerships be approached to switch to LED lighting and install solar panels on their roofs.

Mr. Coleman reported he, Ms. Houck and Mr. Vitola are discussing the concept of approaching land owners with large parking lots to see if they would be interested in partnering with the City to install a solar canopy. The customers would then be able to park in the shade and the City would get “free land” to install solar.

Mr. Irvine proposed distributing a draft document prior to the November meeting to propose innovative ways to encourage “going green” on commercial buildings. Mr. Irvine reported that he had spoken with Bahareh van Boekhold from DNREC after the last CAC

meeting and she would like to come to one of the CAC meetings to discuss how the CAC can go about applying for federal grants for LED lights. Mr. Irvine will follow up with Ms. Van Boekhold about attending an upcoming meeting and providing additional information on grants. Mr. Prasad wanted to remind the CAC that although grants are extremely beneficial they are also very time consuming in terms of administrative work (i.e. reporting terms) from beginning to end. Mr. Irvine also suggested making the recommendation to Council to have them approve the grant and allocate City staff to administer the grant.

Mr. Irvine suggested inviting Michelle Bennett, Sustainability Manager for UDEL to an upcoming meeting to find out what the University is doing in terms of sustainability.

Also, he suggested asking the Planning Commission and/or members to come discuss some of the CAC's ideas on green roofs, etc., and how they may be able to fit in with upcoming proposed projects in the City.

5. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Hornor will take pictures at Dow, a prospective award recipient and report back to the CAC next month.

6. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McDowell reported he had been working on a reforestation project at Curtis Mill Park with anticipated funding received from the White Clay Partnership. Mr. McDowell suggested the CAC continue efforts to encourage this initiative. This may assist the CAC in future endeavors/funding for such projects as plant donation, etc. The CAC could request assistance for labor intensive type projects from the Boy Scouts, church groups, etc. Mr. McDowell stated this project could also tie in with the Certified Habitat Project. Mr. Coleman stated there is a meadow on the reservoir property that could potentially be considered for a project such as this.

Mr. Coleman reported that 201 E. Delaware Avenue, 132 E. Delaware Avenue and 58 E. Main Street have green roofs. UDEL has them as well at the Caesar Rodney dormitory, Colburn Lab and two as well on the ISE Lab.

It was suggested to review the "LEED" Code improvements that were proposed by the City several years ago. Perhaps the guidelines can be strengthened to encourage LEED buildings. Mr. Prasad will contact Ms. Feeney Roser to find out what new buildings have been constructed in Newark that are LEED certified/compliant and also how much of an impact did the LEED requirements impose on the City's building Code.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 10, 2015 in Council Chamber.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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