

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE UTILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
GARDNER, KANSAS
Page No. 2024-10
July 11, 2024**

The Utilities Advisory Commission of Gardner, Kansas, met in Regular Session on July 11, 2024, at City Hall. Present were Chairperson Barbara Coleman, Vice Chairperson Bryce Augustine Commissioner Nate Plahn, Commissioner Christopher Jackson, Commissioner Russell Wohler, Utilities Department Director Gonzalo Garcia and Utilities Specialist Erin Groh.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Barbara Coleman.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Standing approval of the minutes as written for the June 6, 2024, meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission.**
2. **Consider a recommendation to the City Council for appointment of a Director on the Kansas Municipal Gas Agency's Board of Directors.**

Motion by Vice Chair Augustine, seconded by Commissioner Plahn, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried 5-0 Aye

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider a recommendation to accept the proposal from KOC Electric to purchase transformers for the Substation 1, Transformer 2 Upgrade CIP Project EL4004 and for the new Substation 4 CIP Project EL4005.**

Director Garcia discussed how staff is currently working on two projects, the Substation 1 Transformer 2 Upgrade and new Substation 4. The consultant hired [Olsson] stated that there was a 32-36 month lead time on the electrical equipment for the projects. City staff issued three Invitations to Bid and three bids were received back. The companies who bid were WEG, Howard Industrial and KOC Electric.

Company	Transformer 30 MVA	Transformer 45 MVA	Lead Time
WEG	\$2,637,800.13	\$2,970,275.70	130-140 weeks
Howard Ind	\$2,712,430.10	\$3,013,505.37	72-76 weeks
KOC Electric	\$2,185,121.00	\$2,577,336.00	56 weeks

Bids were reviewed by Olsson and they recommended KOC Electric due to several factors. KOC's cost was lower than the other companies by \$400,000- \$500,000, the lead time was the shortest at 56 weeks and they're the only vendor who provided a sealed tank, vs a conservator) and FR3 oil. Most transformers use a mineral oil which is very flammable. The City's insurance carrier recommended that Generation use FR3 oil which Garcia said is almost like vegetable oil. The risk is less due to less flammability. Garcia said he recently met with a former Evergy employee who is a consultant prior to the UAC meeting who recommended using KOC because they have the quickest lead time and the best price and is used by Evergy. Garcia said that for the transformer for Substation 4, we need to get a 30 MVA, for Substation 1 a decision hasn't been made yet if we need a 30 or 45 MVA. Garcia wanted the commission to approve a recommendation to the City Council to accept the proposal for KOC versus the other two companies. It will

give staff time to review the contracts, legal, and then hopefully in the following weeks staff will have the actual transformer size needed.

Commissioner Wohler asked if Garcia was concerned that the cost was much lower than the other companies. Garcia said that he knows that they're new to the US market but there is no difference from the other companies. They have three repair shops across the country so if there is a problem with a transformer one of the shops can help us get the equipment repaired. Vice Chairperson Augustine said that he felt comfortable with using KOC since Evergy is using them as well.

Motion by Commissioner Plahn, seconded by Vice Chairperson Augustine to approve a recommendation to the City Council to accept the proposal from KOC Electric to purchase transformers for the Substation 1, Transformer 2 Upgrade CIP Project EL4004 and for the new Substation 4 CIP Project EL4005.

Motion carried 5-0 Aye

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Electric Reliability Report from American Public Power Association for the 2nd Quarter 2024.

Director Garcia discussed the Electric Reliability Indexes for April-June 2024. Commissioner Augustine requested a comparison between 2nd Quarter 2023 and 2nd Quarter 2024.

Augustine thanked Garcia for the information. Coleman asked if Evergy notified us of the work they were doing that caused a large outage in Gardner. Garcia said that City staff knew of the work being done by Evergy but Evergy didn't notify Generation staff that they were going to open a breaker which feeds power to Substation 1 which ended up shutting it down. Staff had to transfer the load from Substation 1 to Substation 2, which took about 50 minutes. Power was restored after the 50 minutes. City staff had a meeting with Evergy to find out why this happened. Staff will have a second meeting with Evergy to formulate a plan on how things will be communicated in the future when certain work is being done.

Another outage occurred due to human error by Director Garcia because he was troubleshooting for a wiring of another installation on Substation 2. Garcia opened the wrong switch and there was an outage at Substation 3 which was restored within 20 minutes. It ended up being something that was a positive due to it brought to light that there wasn't an alarm that went off to tell staff that the switch caused a disconnection on Sub 3. The need for the alarm was identified and an alarm will be programmed in the SCADA system for it.

Augustine asked if in the future when quarterly reports are presented, that we show the previous year's numbers as presented this month for the Electric Indexes to provide some information on how things have changed. Augustine also asked about Director Garcia saying in the previous meeting that he was going to talk to someone about the data on the APPA reports. Garcia said that he did talk to Nexgrid about how the MAIFI was showing an original target of 0.005. Nexgrid provides the software for these calculations. Nexgrid made some changes so it will be closer to the APPA standard that we are using.

2. Sewer 2nd Quarter 2024 Repair Report.

Director Garcia presented the Sewer repair report for the 2nd Quarter 2024. Line Maintenance staff completed 10 sanitary sewer line repairs affecting 8 customers, with 1 due to grease, 5 due to residents' issues and 4 due to other issues. The average workday response time was 14 minutes and the average workday repair time was 1 hour and 2 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 18 minutes and the average after-hours repair time was 15 hours and 42 minutes. The overall average response time was 16 minutes and the overall average repair time was 8 hours and 22 minutes.

3. Water 2nd Quarter 2024 Repair Report.

Director Garcia presented the Water Distribution Repairs Report for the 2nd quarter of 2024. Line Maintenance staff completed 12 water distribution service repairs affecting 11 customers: 1 due to line failure; 1 due to damage by others, 5 due to residents' issues, and 5 due to other issues. The average workday response time was 17 minutes and the average workday repair time was 2 hours and 4 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 22 minutes and the average after-hours repair time was 3 hours and 1 minute. The overall average response time was 19 minutes and the overall average repair time was 2 hours and 28 minutes.

4. Project Updates.

Director Garcia discussed some current projects. There was a leaning pole at Center and W. Madison St. so Electric Linemen replaced the 35 Circuit Pole. Distribution has been working on Circuit 31 is almost fully rebuilt which includes the line that goes from Moonlight to Warren St. It is almost two miles of electric line that was replaced. Vice Chairperson Augustine asked what the status was of the Utilities Building Expansion and Garcia said that the layout drawing has been finalized. The contract is almost finished so we are hoping it comes to us next month, for a recommendation to City Council. Augustine also asked about standards for the Water and Wastewater and where the department is at with trying to track outages using industry standards and Garcia said that Utilities Manager Jeff LeMire is working on writing a recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Plahn, seconded by Commissioner Wohler to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0 Aye

/s/ _____ Erin Groh

Utilities Specialist
City of Gardner Utilities Department