

Public Power Steering Committee
February 23rd, 2022
Valley Center City Hall
121 S. Meridian

City Administrator Brent Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Council Member Chris Evans, Council Member Gina Gregory, Randy Jackson, Travis Bryant, Joe Dessenberger, Stacy Lacy, Brian Shelton, Assistant City Administrator Barry Smith, Public Works Director Rodney Eggleston, and City Attorney Barry Arbuckle.

Members Absent: Cory Gibson, Brice Turner, and Jarrod West.

Public Attendees: Jim Gregory

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lacy moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Evans. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

Administrator Clark welcomed everyone to the inaugural Public Power Steering Committee and asked that all members introduce themselves and why they wanted to serve on the committee. Mr. Gregory also introduced himself.

NEW BUSINESS-

A. Discuss and Introduction into Public Power

City Administrator Clark gave a brief overview of Public Power and why the City of Valley Center is exploring the possibility of acquiring the electrical distribution system from Evergy. Clark showed a brief video from the American Public Power Association website that was also shown during the council meeting explaining a little about public power. Clark addressed some questions and concerns regarding the polar vortex regarding power pricing. No action was taken, discussion only.

B. Discussion of Process and Next Steps

City Administrator Clark introduced the process and next steps with this endeavor. He emphasized the public outreach will be critical throughout the entire process. Clark explained the informational flyer that was sent out via mail and as an insert in the Ark Valley Newspaper. The first step will be to solicit Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for an electrical feasibility study. Attorney Arbuckle described the legal process for the city to acquiring the utility per Kansas Statue. Clark explained the goal of having the revenue bond ballot potentially be voted on by the public in November 2024. No action was taken, discussion only.

C. Discussion & Potential Action on Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Feasibility Study

City Administrator Clark discussed the RFP process and presented a draft RFP that will be presented to the City Council if the committee approves it during the meeting. Members asked questions regarding the process of an RFP. Also, Clark indicated that if anyone had further changes that those need to be emailed to him by Monday, February 28th. Stacy moved to authorize the city to solicit for RFPs for an electrical feasibility study, motion seconded by Shelton. Vote yea: unanimous. Motion carried.

D. Discussion & Potential Action on Frequency of Committee Meetings

City Administrator Clark introduced the topic along with the timeline that was just approved with regarding the RFP. Members thought they might need more time to review and ask questions regarding the proposals that are received. The timeline was adjusted and it was determined to meet the week of April 25th. Clark stated that scoresheets and proposals would be sent out around April 20th. Also, Clark will send out a doodle poll for the next meetings. No action was taken, discussion only.

Dessenberger moved to adjourn, seconded by Bass. Vote Yea: Unanimous.

ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

/s/ Brent Clark, City Administrator