

## Full Meeting

### Utilities Committee

Tue, Feb 25, 2025 4:30PM

#### **Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:03**

All right. Welcome everyone. I'm calling to order the utilities committee meeting for Tuesday, February 25. Please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **All Present 00:13**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under god indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. **[Aldersperson Vered Meltzer specifically did not speak the words "under god" while saying the pledge.]**

#### **Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:27**

Thank you. Please be seated. Need a roll call of membership. Let the record note that Alder Heffernan is excused, and we'll do roll call starting on my left.

#### **Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 00:35**

Patrick Hayden, district seven.

#### **Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:37**

Vered Meltzer, district two.

#### **Aldersperson Chad Doran (District 15) 00:39**

Chad Doran district 15.

#### **Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:41**

Brad Firkus, District Three.

#### **Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:43**

Thank you. Now we need approval of the minutes from our previous meeting, 25-0142, to approve the February 11, utilities committee meeting minutes.

#### **Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 00:52**

Move to approve.

#### **Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 00:53**

All right, we have a motion and a second. All in favor, say, Aye. Aye. Any nay or abstention votes? Seeing none that is approved for zero.

#### **Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:55**

Second.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:06**

We have no public hearings or appearances today, and we have one action item, 25-0143, sole source award of 2025 native landscape management contract K-25 to NES ecological services, a division of Robert E Lee and Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$181,899.05.

**Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:28**

Move to approve.

**Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 01:29**

Second.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:30**

We have a motion and a second. Director Neuberger, what's your mic number? All right, go ahead.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 01:41**

Thank you, chair. So, I'll just highlight a couple of the information points from the memo, and then I'm happy to answer any questions that that the committee may have. So as indicated there, we went out for an RFP in 2022 and selected NES on a quality-based selection process with the first year 2022 being contracted, and then the RFP process also stated that we would look to negotiate single source contracts with NES for the remaining of the of the four years.

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 02:17**

So, we're just about through that five-year period, and NES has been doing fantastic work for us. They're a local contractor. A contractor that had been doing work for us for quite a few years before that, they were located in the southern part of the state, and you may recall that they stopped servicing this area. So that was a—that happened relatively quickly, but we were very happy to have NES on board, and their track record has proved that we made a good decision in hiring them.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 02:50**

Wonderful. Thank you. Any comments or questions from the committee? Seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote All in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed or abstaining? There are none. That is recommended for approval four - zero.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:04**

We have one information item, 25-0144 Monthly Report for January, 2025. Any—

**Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 03:12**

Move to a—oh, sorry.

**Alderson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 03:14**

It's an information item. So we do not need a motion or a second. But do we have any comments or questions on this item? It was a little discouraging to see that our constantly trending downwards has been broken. Hopefully this is just a blip, and the rest of the year will continue to have fewer water main breaks than the previous year. Do we have any concerns about soil conditions or any risk that we might be seeing a different trajectory this year?

**Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 03:51**

So, if Director Jungwirth has any contributions to make, I happily, happily pass that over to her. But I would say I don't think that there's a whole lot that we can derive from, like the reverse trend or anything like that. You know that we continue to try to address aging—our aging infrastructure. As we reconstruct streets, we go after those and undersized mains. There is a little bit of luck involved each year. The weather, of course, has something to say about it too. Very cold conditions can have an impact on frost in the ground and things like that. Those are all factors that that weigh into that. So, I would say, I don't, I don't think that DPW thinks that this is a result of any deficiency or anything like that in terms of our approach to maintaining the system.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 04:44**

Thank you. Yeah, just looking here the, as far as, like the year for the age of the pipes, most of them are from the 60s, a couple of them from the 40s, and the youngest one was from 1978. So, I think that that—that doesn't show anything concerning to me, as far as the types of breaks that we're having.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 05:04**

And to add to that, in the 60s/70s, there was a stretch of problematic pipe material. So, if we do see a trend in that kind of time frame, some of that could be attributed there. And then again, weather dependent. As we start seeing temperatures warm back up as we have, there are some fluctuations in the ground that might cause some breaks, but I think we were at 9 so far this month was January, and we had 7 last year in January. So, while we're a little bit behind, if you will call it that, it's not far off. We're not seeing anything excessive.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:43**

Thank you.

**Director Laura Jungwirth (Public Works) 05:44**

Thank you.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:45**

Any comments from the committee? All right, that was our only information item. I will entertain a motion.

**Alderman Patrick Hayden (District 7) 05:55**

Move to adjourn.

**Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:56**

Second.

**Alderman Vered Meltzer (District 2) 05:57**

All right, we have a motion and a second to adjourn. All in favor, say aye. Aye. We are adjourned. Thank you all very much.