

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE UTILITY
COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
HELD ON APRIL 27, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Neff.

Commissioner Neff held the Roll Call and those present were: Bernadette Keck, David Neff, and Herbie Galicia. Commissioner Wiggins joined later in the meeting during the presentation.

City representatives present included: Christina Petriches, Acting City Administrator, Steve Gorszczyk Public Works Director, Phil Stokes Electric Director.

The Commissioner Neff lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission approved the minutes of the March 30, 2023 meeting.

- I. Scenic Hill Solar presentation by Bill Halter. Presented benefits of solar for the City. Four schematic options were presented to reach a maximum of 13.6 MW per GRDA contract showing benefit to the City as a cost savings without detail and listing non-financial and hedging benefits. Discussion of any negative impacts of the panels. None noted per Scenic Hill Solar. The expectation is that we will have liability insurance on the system for wind, hail, etc. System w/ batteries can offset the peak. Batteries were not presented as a system option. Solar is the main renewable energy source for Arkansas. Many large manufacturers want green energy associated with power generation. Phil confirmed the importance of green energy with new industry. Discussion occurred of the uses related to the additional funds made from the solar project. Neff thanked the men from Scenic Hill Solar for their presentation.
- II. Phil Stokes discussed GRDA contract including the way the City is charged for electricity. Questions about how we can make solar energy cheaper for the end consumers were raised. Phil answered that we can put programs in place that would be better alternative to individuals placing panels on roofs.
- III. Steve discussed headworks design and how it works, the fact that we need 2 screens, and that we may need to reconfigure the flow. Maxwell St sewer also in design and there is concrete below the asphalt. This project is from Flint Pl down to Jefferson. Staff will replace any smaller pipe with 18-inch pipe.
- IV. Commissioner Neff made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wiggins 2nd the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.

APPROVED:



David Neff, Chair

5-25-2023

Date