

Mayor Nanette K. Johnston opened the work session at 5:30 p.m. on September 20, 2016, at City Hall located at 8880 Clark Avenue, Parkville. In attendance were aldermen Greg Plumb, Douglas Wylie, Jim Werner, Diane Driver, Tina Welch, Dave Rittman and Marc Sportsman.

The following staff was also present:
Lauren Palmer, City Administrator
Stephen Lachky, Community Development Director
Tim Blakeslee, Assistant to the City Administrator
Melissa McChesney, City Clerk

1. GENERAL AGENDA

A. Receive a report from Kansas City Power & Light regarding mitigation strategies for recurring power outages in Parkville

Mayor Johnston stated that she and City staff had several meetings with representatives of Kansas City Power and Light (KCP&L) to go through several solutions that might solve the power outage problems in Parkville.

Alderman Plumb joined the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Janet Waddell, Communications Business Manager, thanked the City for working with KCP&L and thanked the residents and customers who communicated the issues that helped them determine the full impact of the outages.

Scott Heidtbrink, Chief Operating Officer, provided a history of KCP&L and said it was ranked number one for reliability, power quality and service. He noted that KCP&L covered a large service area and when pockets of service went out they worked to resolve the issue quickly. He added that power outages are inevitable but KCP&L worked to try to reduce the frequency of outages and the amount of time to solve the problem.

Andy Alexander, Central Design Supervisor, provided a history of the power outages in Parkville. He noted that KCP&L started seeing issues in February or March and saw a big spike in outages during the summer. The issue was with the circuits that fed the south side of Riss Lake to downtown to Park University that had locked up nine times – four were related to trees, four were related to material failures and one was caused by KCP&L but was resolved in 11 minutes. He stated that a more intensive cycle was planned to kick off during the winter; the Worst Performing Circuit Program would be implemented to look for problem circuits. Alexander noted that what was unique about the event two weeks prior was that a tree, located 50 feet from the pole line, fell on a power line and KCP&L would not have touched the tree because it did not encroach over the line.

Alexander provided an overview of the Lateral Improvement Program that would proactively look at outage statistics to target the company's efforts. After talking with City staff KCP&L determined the problems in the Bluffs subdivision had been assigned to replace three or four poles and all the wires to start the following week.

Discussion from the Board focused on the reasons an underground feeder could fail and Alexander responded that all feeders were tied to overhead lines and outages could be caused by lightning, the age of a cable or a failure in a splice. Another question raised was whether KCP&L had capacity planned for growth and Alexander responded that the planning and engineering departments were looking at growth trends and gathered information over the summer to see where the loads were and how they grew. There were no immediate issues but they had ideas for the future for additional circuits.

Alexander said that power for the northern part of Riss Lake was fed from a different source and

no issues were found with the circuits. A revised design was created to bring in a full feeder capacity cable to the southern edge of the new apartment development on Klamm Road. He noted KCP&L could not prevent trees from falling on the lines but would have a plan in place to return electricity to residents in the least amount of time. The timing of the project was dependent on the apartment development. Discussion focused on the impact to property owners in Riss Lake with the removal and trimming of trees to add the feeder line.

Alexander provided an overview of a new technology that included an ultrasound at each pole to listen to the insulators and equipment to look for micro arcing and tracking on the equipment. The new technology would let everyone see the fault and when the system opened, closed or picked up so KCP&L could fix the issue. The new technology would be available in 2018.

Alexander provided an overview of a project along Highway 9 due to a property issue with the poles and lines and the biggest concerns were access to the lines because of the large forest south of the Riss Lake dam. City Administrator Lauren Palmer added that staff was aware of the tough terrain, water drainage issues, the creeks and the cost and complication of the project and noted there might be some ways to improve access.

Alderman Plumb asked if there was an opportunity to make changes with the proposed improvements of Highway 9 and Alexander responded that it was on their radar and KCP&L was willing to partner any way they could.

Mayor Johnston opened the floor to public comments and questions.

Herb Johnson, 8325 Harbour Place, stated that his home was near the location of the tree that fell on August 31 and shared his concerns about overhead power lines. He said he would like to see them moved underground. Alexander responded that there were a variety of issues with buried power lines, including rock, access, manholes in the streets and concerns with digging into the dam. The construction standard was overhead lines.

Kelly Seymour, 8021 Park Ridge Drive, said the problem began in 2011 when residents experienced an outage that lasted for more than two days. She wanted to make sure that KCP&L was aware that a loss of electricity in Riss Lake caused a loss of water to the grinder pumps. She asked if residents could be given priority for future outages due to health concerns (example: dialysis machine) and Alexander responded that KCP&L was aware of the grinder pump issue and it was one reason why the issue showed up on their radar in February. He said that when events happen they prioritize by what is affected by the entire circuit and subsets, including hospitals, water and sewer plants, and other critical infrastructure. He said he would discuss the grinder pump issue with KCP&L.

Brian Gordon, 8126 Walnut Way, asked about the failure rate of other grids and Alexander responded that the information was not readily available. He also asked why KCP&L was trying to continue running power through the forest near Highway 9 and not through the existing road. Alexander responded that underground power lines were not as affected by storms and small issues, but they could still experience some power outages.

Mike Green, 8004 Parkridge Drive, referenced the blue line circuit in the map provided in the agenda packet and asked if the power went out along the circuit because there is not a backup source. Alexander responded that KCP&L did not have the capacity on other circuits but planned to tie it to the red line on the map to bring the power back quicker. The blue line tied to the downtown area but outages were dependent on where the problem was located. Green asked about the breaker to be installed on Highway 9 to help keep power on in Riss Lake. Alexander said that the parts were ordered and would be installed in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Judy Timmerman, 7905 Parkview Drive, explained that she attended on behalf of the General Motors plant in Kansas City, Kansas, that was impacted by the power outages and clarified that

the outages also impacted the industrial areas in Riverside. Alexander responded that the issue impacted areas farther south on Highway 9 and there were alternate feeds in place. He added that the additional feed into Riss Lake would improve reliability. He would follow up with Ms. Timmerman to address her issue.

Bill Bowling, 8011 Agron, stated that the sump pumps in residences were also affected by power outages and asked when the liability for damages from KCP&L would be initiated. Alexander responded that KCP&L had a damage claim process but outages in liability terms were not covered.

Brent Seymour, 8021 Parkridge Drive, asked if there was a systematic reason why some residents had power while others did not and Alexander responded that there was not a reason and that underground feeder exits were installed when a breaker box was installed.

Lovell Hollaway, 5701 N. Coveview Court, said his concern included poor customer service and he requested a specific date of delivery. Alexander responded that he understood the concerns and did not have the data to respond to the date of delivery. Teams from all disciplines in the company were working to find a solution. He added that he was contacted and responded to 24 residents in Riss Lake and explained the issues.

Connor Blinzler, 8211 Harbour Place, asked if there was a failsafe to keep electricity on when a tree fell around the Riss Lake Meadows area and Alexander responded that KCP&L planned to install a breaker and set another one to isolate the downtown business district. He noted that the problem was with getting access for a truck with the equipment and the new smart grid applications would be implemented in 2018 to allow KCP&L the ability to fix issues in multiple pieces in multiple directions.

Patricia Tate, 8821 Sleepy Hollow, asked why the line was built the way it was. Alexander said the plan was agreed to with the developer and since the initial installation the terrain had changed, but he did not work with the developer himself so he was unsure. Challenges included the dam, wet seasons and the trees and rocky terrain.

Brian Gordon returned to the podium and asked if KCP&L had considered a package to offer a compensation arrangement for residents to purchase generators to use during power outages. Alexander replied that the company did not have this service but he would pass the information on to KCP&L. The company wanted a more long-term resolution to the power outage issue.

Herb Johnson returned to the podium and thanked the City for removing a dead tree in Riss Lake that was within five feet of the power lines.

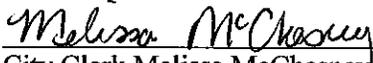
Bill Bowling returned to the podium and suggested that KCP&L look into battery power or a connection to the grinder pumps to provide backup electricity during an outage.

Janet Waddell thanked the Board and City staff for the invitation and the residents for their questions. She noted that KCP&L would be sending out mailings to update residents on the progress of the plans presented.

The work session ended at 6:55 p.m.

The work session minutes for September 20, 2016, having been read and considered by the Board of Aldermen, and having been found to be correct as written, were approved on this the fourth day of October 2016.

Submitted by:


City Clerk Melissa McChesney

