COUNCIL UTILITY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE TRANSFER DETAILS

Newly-appointed committee to meet July 6

INDIANAPOLIS – The City-County Council Utility Transfer Oversight Committee will meet on July 6 at 6 p.m. in the Public Assembly Room at the City-County Building to review the proposed agreements to transfer the water and wastewater systems to Citizens Energy Group. This committee was created by the Council on May 17th, when the Council voted 18 to 11 to allow the City to move forward with final negotiations with Citizens.

Following five other Council committee hearings in April and May, this special committee is expected to meet two times to consider the Approving Ordinance and the final agreements, which were filed by Councillor Mike Speedy. If approved by the committee, the ordinance and the agreements will be referred to the full Council for review and approval.

“My team has worked to make sure that the final agreements are consistent with the requirements set by the Council on May 17th. I look forward to the Council’s review and hope they will approve the agreements so that we can move forward,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “This transfer is a transformational project for our city that will enable us to address decades-old infrastructure problems while ensuring lower-than-currently-projected water and wastewater rates. More than these financial benefits, we are safeguarding these systems in the Citizens charitable trust that operates as a responsive and responsible non-profit, without the local partisan politics.”

The Utility Transfer Oversight Committee is comprised of 11 councillors, with six appointed by Councillor Vaughn and five appointed by Councillor Sanders:

- President Ryan Vaughn (District 3)
- Vice-President Marilyn Pfisterer (District 14)
- Minority Leader Joanne Sanders (At-Large)
- Councillor Paul Bateman (District 11)
- Councillor Maggie Lewis (District 7)
“Combining the permanent professional management by Citizens with operational efficiencies will create lower than projected utility rates and will ensure high quality drinking water and cleaner area rivers and streams. We look forward to continuing the open, public dialogue with the Council regarding this unique opportunity to make our utilities more efficient while rebuilding our city,” said Carey Lykins, president & CEO of Citizens Energy Group.

On May 17, the City-County Council voted in favor of an ordinance allowing the City to begin the final negotiation of the transfer to Citizens in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding. If given final approval by the Council, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission will review the proposal through its public process.

Pending final approval from the Council, the transfer will provide the City with more than $425 million in revenue that will be invested in infrastructure improvements. On May 11, Mayor Ballard previewed the planned investments in the City’s ailing infrastructure that will result from revenue from the proposed transfer. The investments will create thousands of Indianapolis jobs while rebuilding crumbling roads, sidewalks and bridges and demolishing unsalvageable abandoned homes.

For more information about the utility transfer or to submit feedback, visit www.indy.gov/utilities, log on to the FTP site, ftp://ftp.indygov.org/utilities (username: public; password: public) or call (317) 327-4MAC.

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