



September 19, 2014

Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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Resolution seeks equal treatment for projects that require moving utilities

If We Energies ratepayers are spared from being assessed for costs of moving utilities related to the Milwaukee Streetcar project, they should also bear zero costs related to any other public works project where utility line relocation is necessary.

That is the essence of a resolution for immediate adoption to be considered by the full Common Council when it meets at **9 a.m. Tuesday, September 23, 2014**, at City Hall. The resolution (File #140808) -- authored by **Alderman Robert J. Bauman** -- directs the Department of Public Works and the City Attorney's Office to jointly identify all municipal public works projects in the We Energies service area involving the absorption of utility relocation costs by We Energies, and to file a petition on behalf of the City of Milwaukee (as a We Energies customer and ratepayer) with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to object to the requirement that We Energies be required to bear utility relocation costs associated with the project.

Tuesday's Council meeting will be televised live on the City Channel (Channel 25 on Time Warner Cable in the City of Milwaukee), and on U-Verse Channel 99. Online viewing is available by going to www.city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.

Alderman Bauman, chair of the Council's Public Works Committee, said the legislation is about equal treatment for all We Energies ratepayers. "The PSC essentially opened the door for this action with its final decision on August 29th (decision found that the utility relocation costs associated with the streetcar project must be borne by the city, and cannot be borne by the utility and passed along to ratepayers)," he said.

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Resolution/ADD ONE

“If you follow the line of reasoning on the part of the PSC, it should also be unreasonable to require private utilities to pay utility relocation costs associated with other municipal public works projects such as street reconstruction work in other municipalities in the utility’s service area,” Alderman Bauman said. “A major street project in Watertown or Waukesha requiring utility line relocation costs should not affect the pocketbooks of We Energies customers in Milwaukee and Milwaukee County.”

According to the resolution, when a municipal public works project in the We Energies service area involving the absorption of utility relocation costs by We Energies is identified, the City Attorney’s Office “shall file a petition, on behalf of the City of Milwaukee as a We Energies customer and ratepayer, with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to object to the requirement that We Energies be required to bear utility relocation costs associated with the project.....and that the City Attorney’s Office shall file this petition in whatever form and manner the City Attorney’s Office deems most appropriate and effective for obtaining relief from any requirement that We Energies be required to absorb utility relocation costs.”