



MINEOLA CIVIC CENTER™

December 12, 2018

Honorable Kevin White
Mayor of Mineola
Mercy Rushing, City Administrator
P.O. Box 179
Mineola, TX 75773

Dear Mayor White and Ms. Rushing,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the wonderful working relationship between Mineola Civic Center and the City of Mineola. MCC is grateful for the opportunity to provide Mineola residents this wonderful tax-free facility that no other small town can provide. We truly feel our facility is a hidden gem in East Texas.

The purpose of this letter is to request the City continue paying AEP-SWEPCO for the streetlights at Mineola Civic Center as originally approved by Mineola City Council in 1975. The reason this has come into question is because of a recent audit of streetlights by AEP. The audit revealed the Civic Center's streetlights are not billed to Mineola Civic Center nor the City of Mineola.

The SWEPCO Customer Service Representative for this area, Sue Haynes, researched SWEPCO's original records for the establishment of service to Mineola Civic Center. Two letters were discovered documenting the City Council's vote in December, 1975 to pay the monthly bill. The letters are as follows:

1. Letter dated Dec. 8, 1975 from Sid Cox, MCC Board President to Jim Welch, and SWEPCO's Manager in Mineola. This letter establishes the lighting plan to be used and the understanding the monthly cost would be based on *municipal rates to be paid by the City*.
2. Letter dated Dec. 17, 1975 from Mayor Joe Smith - written to inform Mr. Welch of the *City Council's approval to pay the monthly cost of the lights* while the Civic Center would pay \$11,806.48 for the installation of the underground utility portion for the lights.

3. Ms. Haynes also found the SWEPCO Engineer's detailed drawing of the installation of the underground utilities at Mineola Civic Center.

I questioned Ms. Haynes why the streetlights were not on either bill. There are two possibilities – they were never attached to an account or the more likely explanation, the information was lost when SWEPCO merged with American Electric Power in 2000.

Next, Ms. Haynes suggested I contact the City to see if there was corroborating evidence from the City Council meetings in 1975. I sent the above mentioned information from SWEPCO to Cindy Karch, Finance Director/City Secretary of Mineola. Ms. Karch researched several months of the City Council's minutes from 1975 but was unable to find the approval of payment by the City.

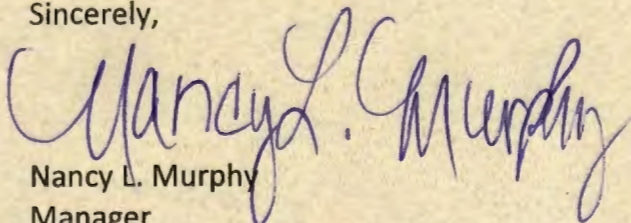
In the meantime, I discovered two items in Mineola Civic Center's archives:

1. Dec. 11, 1975, Mr. Cox wrote a detailed note pertaining to a phone conversation with Ralph Bruner who was a City Council member at the time. Mr. Bruner had called to discuss payment by the City which would provide a less expensive rate. The note indicates Mr. Bruner's support of the request and also his belief the other councilmen would favor the request.
2. Minutes of MCC Board of Directors Meeting on Dec. 4, 1975 – (Item 8) Mr. Cox to discuss proposal to the City to pay for the streetlights.

In light of the above mentioned documentation, which is attached, Mineola Civic Center respectfully requests the City of Mineola to approve the continued payment for the cost of streetlights only at Mineola Civic Center. To be clear, this **excludes** our tennis court lighting, Meredith Hall outside lighting, any and all outside lighting attached to any building, etc.

As Manager of MCC, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Mineola Civic Center, I would like to thank you very much for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Murphy
Manager
Mineola Civic Center, Inc.

Enc. (5)

Mineola Civic Center, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 4, 1975, at 5:00 p.m.

At Mineola Federal Savings and Loan Building

PRESENT: Sid Cox, Barbara Castloo, Frances Dear, Ross Lukenbill,
Dan Peacock, Doyle Starnes, Ben Pegues, Shirley Simons,
Jim Clark.

(Time and place for this meeting was set by the Board
at the last meeting).

1. Architect Simons presented elevation drawings of the proposed building. He showed drawings and advised of requirements for a full production stage. A full production stage will add 2,200 square feet to the proposed building.
2. The Board members voted unanimously to retain the stage as shown by the Architect's schmatics, rejecting a full production stage.
3. The Board discussed with the Architect the addition of a corridor down each side of the building. The Architect advised that this addition would add about 1,400 SF to the building with the cost being increased accordingly. The Board members voted unanimously to add a corridor along each side of the building.
4. Location of the stage was discussed, whether it should be at the back or front of the multi-purpose room. The Board members voted unanimously to leave the stage as shown by the Architect's schmatics.
5. The Board voted unanimously to eliminate the Ground Storage room and to use this area for a raised podium for the Club Room No. 1.
6. The Architect advised that he will prepare a perspective drawing of the building. This drawing will be colored and will be furnished to the Board for whatever use the Board wishes.
7. The Board members unanimously voted to construct a 6 foot chain link fence around the entire perimeter of the Civic Center site, with brick entrance ways at Newsom and Ivy Streets. No angle arms and barb wire at the top of the fence. The proposed fence layout shown by Cox was approved.
8. The Board unanimously approved the lighting plan "B" prepared for the Civic Center by SWEPCO, free of charge. Cox is to discuss with the City of Mineola the proposal that the City pay for the Monthly cost.
9. Cox reminded Board members to be thinking of the Custodian house, which will be further discussed at a future Board meeting.

Sid Cox, President

Dec. 11, 1975

Ralph Bruner phoned regarding my letter to Joe Smith about the City paying the monthly cost for the street lights at the Civic Center.

He was not sure as to what the City might be requested to pay for regarding other Civic Center operations.

I advised Ralph that the Civic Center will pay all other operating cost, that the City was requested to pay for the street light since this would provide a cheaper rate.

Ralph said this answered his question, that he was for the City paying this monthly cost and he felt sure the other councilmen also were for it.

A. C. C.

12-11-75

Copy 12-15-75

MINEOLA CIVIC CENTER

"Where fine people meet"

P. O. BOX 96

December 8, 1975

MINEOLA, TEXAS 75773

Mr. Jim Welch
Manager, SWEPCO
125 West Broad
Mineola, Texas 75773

Dear Jim:

The Board of Directors of the Mineola Civic Center, Inc., appreciates the lighting plan which your company prepared and recommended to us. Your recommendations included (1) Plan "A" for 17 - 400 watt mercury vapor lights on wooden poles with overhead conductors along the street and 5 - 175 watt mercury vapor lights with overhead conductors in the park area, which will require an estimated contribution of \$3,188.83 and an estimated monthly cost of \$72.00, and (2) alternate Plan "B" for 29 - 250 watt mercury vapor lights on aluminum standards with underground conductors along the street and 5 - 175 watt mercury vapor lights on aluminum standards with underground conductors in the park, which will require an estimated contribution of \$11,806.48 and an estimated monthly cost of \$69.15.

We do understand that the required contribution and monthly cost are preliminary estimates only, and that the final contribution and monthly cost will be determined after you have had an opportunity to develop accurate cost figures. **It is also understood that the monthly cost are based on municipal rates to be paid by the City of Mineola.**

The Board of Directors voted on December 4, 1975, to install the Plan "B" which requires 29 - 250 watt mercury vapor lights on aluminum standards. Please send to us any necessary agreement for our execution. The agreement, if required, should provide for Plan "B" and a monthly cost based on a municipal rate.

We are anxious to have lighting installed and in operation at the earliest possible date, and realize that it will require time to obtain the necessary materials.

Again we wish to express our appreciation for the excellent cooperation we have received from you and Mr. Troy Bland. We are very pleased with your recommended plan.

Very truly yours,

Sid Cox
Sid Cox, President

SCC/scc



The City of Mineola

JOE J. SMITH, Mayor

MINEOLA, TEXAS

Assessor-Collector

James T. Flynt
City Attorney
Dr. R. O. Moore
Health Officer
Paul J. Mills
Fire Marshall
C. G. Willingham
Chief of Police
F. W. Perdue
Water Supt.
R. P. Cowan
Street Supt.

Virgil Peacock
Mayor Pro Tem

Ralph Bruner
Ray Short
Virgil Peacock
Sam Curry
Adolphus Vandiver
Aldermen

December 17, 1975

James T. Welch, SWEPCO Manager
Drawer 300
Mineola, Tx 75773

Dear Jim,

The City Council has approved the request from the Mineola Civic Center to install street lighting at their location as described in Plan "B" of your recommendation.

Please install at the earliest possible date, 29-250 watt mercury vapor lights on aluminum standards with underground conductors along the street, and 5-175 watt mercury vapor lights on aluminum standards with underground conductors in the park. We understand the estimated monthly cost to the City will be \$69.15. The estimated contribution of \$11,806.48 required to go underground conductors for this installation will be paid by the Mineola Civic Center, Inc.


Joe J. Smith
Mayor

JJS/jb

From: [Sue Haynes](#)
To: [Cindy Karch](#)
Subject: RE: Rates Civic Center
Date: Friday, December 14, 2018 12:12:43 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I am so sorry it has taken me so long to get back with you on this! After finally getting information from our Billing Department this morning...looks like the price will be:

35 lights = \$2.05 per light PLUS facilities charge of \$3.05 PLUS fuel charge = approximately \$6.60 a month per light or \$231.00 per month for all the lights at the Mineola Civic Center. We have set up a new account for these lights and we can add this account to your Consolidated Billing if you need me to.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend and a very Merry Christmas!!



SUE HAYNES | CUST SVCS ACCT REP SR
LSHAYNES@AEP.COM | D:903.234.7232 | C:903.812.4273
4421 W. LOOP 281, LONGVIEW, TX 75604

From: Cindy Karch [mailto:ckarch@mineola.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2018 11:19 AM
To: Sue Haynes
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rates Civic Center

Sue,

Would you be able to provide the rates for those Civic Center lights? I'd very much appreciate it!

Thank you,

Cindy Karch
City of Mineola
Finance Director/City Secretary
Ph: 903-569-6183
Fax: 903-569-6551

ATTENTION Public Officials (APPOINTED, ELECTED and EMPLOYEES)

Please note that any correspondence, such as e-mail or letters, may become a public record and made available for Public/media review. Also, a "Reply to All" of this e-mail could lead to violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act under the government code. Please reply only to the sender.