



City of Davis

Utility Rate Advisory Commission Minutes

Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis CA 95616

Thursday, April 13, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Commissioner Members Present: Gerry Braun (Chair), Olof Bystrom, Jacques Franco, Lorenzo Kristov, Elaine Roberts-Musser, Johannes Troost

Absent: Richard McCann

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Assistant Public Works Director

Additional Attending: Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager, Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Analyst; Robb Davis, Mayor; Matt Williams

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Braun at 7:03pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

E Roberts-Musser moved, seconded by L Kristov to approve the agenda. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Bystrom, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: McCann

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commission Members, and City Council Members

- E Roberts Musser attended a seminar conducted by McGeorge School of Law to celebrate the State Water Resources Board 50th anniversary, and handed out materials for Commission members to review. The discussion involved statutes as well as state law which govern water use in California. Discussion also included new developments to install water regulating systems onsite (including rain and grey water systems).
- G Braun attended a California Senate Utility, Energy and Telecommunications Committee hearing in Sacramento. Testimony taken was primarily related to energy but also covered SB 649, which provides for the installation of small wireless cells that more economically support 5G service. It's possible that there is some overlap with local broadband planning and installation. Mr. Braun suggested that Davis might want to ask the Broadband Advisory Task Force (BATF) how the bill would or could affect Davis. J Franco added that a review to answer this question is within the scope of the current contractor working with the BATF.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Calendar

J Troost moved to approve the minutes for February 9, 2017 and Jacques Franco moved to approve the minutes for February 23, 2017 as written. L Kristov seconded both motions, and each motions passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: McCann

Abstain: Bystrom

6. Regular Items

A. Commission Procedural Guidelines and Workplan Review.

G Braun introduced the item on formalizing the Commission's procedural guidelines, and draft workplan. The review of the procedural guidelines included modifications to provide clarity, demonstrate expectations of the Commission and staff, and ensure compliance with the Brown Act. He emphasized the need for staff to clarify expectations of the discussion, as the provided material will generate too many questions from the Commission at the meeting, which prevents the meeting from running efficiently. The Commission provided a number of comments on the item, summarized below:

- Overall: there was discussion around replacing the word "majority" with "consensus" in the document.
- Item #1 – Strike out "including relevant prior meeting minutes," but consider adding "including relevant information on past URAC discussions of the topic."
- Item #2 – Add "intended" before "meeting outcomes" in the first sentence.
- Item #4 – Strike out "decision" in second sentence; Strike out the sentence beginning "Depending on the issue, staff may need..."; Clarify last sentence. Recraft two bullet points.
- Item #5 - Strike out "present on an agenda" and insert "agendize an item"; Strike out "and relevance to URAC's work" in the second to last sentence.
- Item #6 – Add "per person" to the end of the first sentence; Strike out "consensus" in the second bullet and replace with "majority."

During the discussion on the item, the commission opted, by consensus, to continue the discussion of the procedural guidelines to the next meeting, allowing for an additional period of review.

Following the review of the procedural guidelines, the Commission reviewed the draft Workplan, which was initially put together by the City Clerk's Office. The commission discussed the structure for the workplan, and whether it serves as a guiding document providing a general framework, or a list of specific tasks. The Commission provided a number of comments on the workplan, which are summarized below:

- Row #1 – Add "and Recommend" after review. Also, insert the following at the end of the sentence: "and make recommendations on Utility Rates"

- Row #2 – Add “participate in” before Broadband Taskforce
- Row #3 – Reword Work Plan/Actions box to say: “Examine how ratepayers are affected by emerging technologies other agencies are implementing.”
- Row #6 – Correct Consumer to read “Community” before Choice Energy.

In addition to these changes, City Council Goal #1 was added to Row 2 and Row 6..

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission agreed to also continue the discussion of the item at the next meeting, to allow more time for review. E Roberts Musser remarked on the fact that she benefitted from the group discussion of both the items, the procedural guidelines and the workplan, as more came out of the group discussion than from the review of the documents on her own.

B. Review Solid Waste Cost of Service and Rate Design Study Submitted by R3 Consulting Group, Inc.

R Tsai introduced the item, stating that the city received only one response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) released in on March 3, 2017, from R3 Consulting Group. Despite the single response, staff are supportive of the applicant, as they have a local office and are familiar with the Solid Waste program, and the needs of the community. He added a proviso, that although the Scope of Work submitted by R3 includes a discussion of 10-year rates, the focus will be on 5-year rates only. He detailed some of the items included in the scope, and remarked on the tight timeline for the study, as there are Proposition 218 requirements for community outreach and comment periods for any cost of service increase, and the program is currently in deficit spending.

J Franco asked if staff were surprised that the RFP had only one applicant. S Gryczko replied that staff had expected to receive more than one, but were not expecting a large number, as there have been larger RFPs out in the public that have received greater attention from consultants. J Franco asked how many responses were returned for the Organics Processing Facility Feasibility Study RFP, and R Tsai replied that the City received four responses. J Franco moved to allow the Commission to review the Organics responses, there was no second and the motion did not pass. J Franco also asked to ensure that there is transparency in the study regarding the decision to continue or halt the pickup of street green waste piles, and whether or not the city has considered both the benefits and drawbacks of using a contractor for billing.

J Franco suggested adding the word “audited” before income statements in item #4 in the Scope of Work, and asked if “miles swept” was equivalent to “miles of collection” in item #5, and voiced the need for mileage data.

The item was opened for public comment during the discussion. Mayor Davis commented on his concerns related to Task #5, specifically the necessity of seeing realistic scenarios for combined pickups and the importance of seeing alternatives to claw-pile pickups. He also asked to see what the effect of eliminating the claw pile pickups would have on user rates.

The commission discussed the rising cost of tipping fees at the landfill, and how the fees impact the city's rates. There was also discussion of the road impact fees paid by Davis Waste Removal and if they accurately recovering the cost of the trucks on the roadway.

Following the discussion, E Roberts Musser moved, seconded by J Franco, to approve the recommendation of staff to Council to approve the contract with R3 Consulting Group, Inc., with the modifications to the scope of services as provided in the meeting. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Bystrom, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost
Noes:
Absent: McCann

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar.

S Gryczko discussed the status of the water fund update, including the draft cost of services update, and the wastewater rate study proposition 218 process triggered by the user class rate adjustments.

The commission agreed the procedural guidelines and the workplan discussion would continue to the next meeting, and through discussion determined that a number of commissioners would be absent during the time of the regular meeting in May. J Troost moved, and J Franco seconded, a motion to schedule a special meeting the first week in May. However, after discussion this motion was withdrawn by J Troost.

J Troost moved, seconded by L Kristov, to cancel the regularly scheduled meeting in May, and schedule a special meeting in the first week of May, based on the availability of commission members. This motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Bystrom, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost
Noes:
Absent: McCann

8. Adjourn

L Kristov moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J Troost. The motion was passed by all present and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectively Submitted by,

Adrienne Heinig
Administrative Analyst I