



**City of Davis**

**Utilities Commission Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

**6:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Olof Bystrom, Matt Williams (Alternate)

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Public Works - Utilities & Operations Director  
Adrienne Heinig, Management Analyst

Additional Attending: Donna Neville, Raymond Salomon - Finance & Budget Commission  
Richard McCann

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Troost at 6:31pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

G Braun moved to approve the agenda, seconded by L Deos. The motion passed as follows:

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

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom, Williams

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

- G Braun discussed possibilities for the City to collaborate with Valley Clean Energy (VCE) on the following topics:
  - the Water Well Standby Power Project (for \$1.35M) to place standby power at the deep wells and West Area Tank;
  - energy storage panel discussions;
  - GRID scale energy storage; and
  - preparation work necessary should VCE acquire PG&E distribution assets, and what the City might request from VCE separately from other jurisdictions.
- E Roberts-Musser provided one article for review:
  - *Fresno Bee* - Dirty Water Fight Brewing as Central Valley City Refuses to Help Neighboring Town
- J Franco discussed two items:
  - Attendance at a meeting at the landfill on emerging technologies
  - Will provide update at next Commission meeting on activities of the Solid Waste subcommittee
- J Troost discussed three items:

- Reminded the Commission that the grand opening of the new biodigester and composting facility will be on October 22 at 2:30pm at the Yolo County Landfill.

#### 4. Public Comment

None.

#### 5. Consent Calendar

##### A. URAC Draft Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2019

Two typographical errors were addressed, and two content changes were made.

- On page 3 of 5, under Item B, under the Formed to Focus on section, a bullet point was added to read “Implications of greater Davis solid waste system.”
- On page 4 of 5, a bullet point was added to read “First paragraph insert when applicable and where applicable language - some RFPs should not require such a policy”

E Roberts-Musser moved, G Braun seconded, to approve the minutes as amended.  
Approved by following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom, Williams

#### 6. Regular Items

##### A. Carbon Free Utility Power

- Received staff report on current cost of powering city utilities, and comparison of cost should city opt into 100% renewable tariff. Discussion included:
  - Direct cost comparisons of electrical billing difficult to make, as costs are based on time of day usage, demand charges
  - WDCWA is not managed by Davis, operations are governed by JPA. City could recommend that WDCWA pursue 100% renewable power
  - Different utilities have different costs as well based on the number of assets powered in the utility, and if offset by solar (WWTP)
  - The self-generation initiative program, administered by the energy commission, possibility of the WWTP to self-generate
  - PVUSA and the possibilities of discussion between the City and VCE in the long-term plan for the site
  - The costs associated with 100% renewable tariff being negligible to ratepayers, move forward with recommendation that Council pursue
  - Concerns regarding the lack of nimbleness within the government, and the frustration with the bureaucratic process

Motion: The Utilities Commission recommends that the City Council opt-up to the Valley Clean Energy (VCE) “Ultra Green” tariff for the city’s utility power.

G Braun moved, L Deos seconded. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom, Williams

Motion: To recommend that the City Council encourage the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency to consider moving to 100% renewable electricity.

G Braun moved, L Deos seconded. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom, Williams

*Item 6C was discussed prior to Item 6B by consensus of the Commission*

### **C. Stormwater Cost of Service Consultant Report to City Council**

- Reviewed scope of work for stormwater cost of service study contract approved by Council. Discussion included:
  - Topic of study - the difference between two stormwater rates, Storm Sewer (operations and maintenance) and Drainage (regulatory and quality)
  - Projections are 20 years out
  - Building staff capacity utilizing the consultant to work with CMO Communications and department communications to inform the process for next time
  - Study is not looking at: localized hospital flooding that occurred in 2018, or what types of studies need to be done for stormwater
  - Discussion of stormwater utilities and Proposition 218, and SB 231, passed in 2017

### **B. Enterprise Reserve Fund Policy**

- Included overview of timeline of reserve policies under discussion to date, and outline of each of the proposals (from Finance Director and Utilities Commission subcommittee.) Discussion included:
  - The challenge of having two documents to review
  - Methodologies behind elements of reserve policies
  - Finance and Budget Subcommittee comments on Finance Director policy recommendations
  - Questions and points of clarification on suggested alternative uses for reserve funds
  - The possibility of a joint meeting of Commission subcommittees
  - Staff to bring the reserve methodology to Council for approval by Jan 2020 (in the process of conducting three cost of service studies)
  - Authorization of UC subcommittee to attend FBC meetings on the topic

Motion: To authorize two members of Subcommittee on Enterprise Fund Reserve Policies to attend the Finance and Budget Commission meetings for agendaized enterprise fund reserve policy discussions. These members are Elaine Roberts-Musser and Lorenzo Kristov.

J Troost moved, G Braun seconded. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:  
Absent: Bystrom, Williams

**D. Recommendation to Require City Utility Studies to Consider Impacts of the Climate Change in the Scope of Work**

- Brought back from discussion in August meeting. Discussion included:
  - Firms conducting cost of service studies often do not specialize in impacts of climate change
  - Language for motion adapted from agenda description of item after brief additions, including:
    - “*as appropriate*” after “...rate studies include in the scope of work...”
    - The removal of “impacts of Climate Change” after “...rate studies include in the scope of work as appropriate...” to be replaced with “*requirements and costs of climate resilience*”
    - The removal of “the requirement and” after “...on the utility...”

Motion: To recommend to the City Council to require Request for Proposals for City of Davis utility services and rate studies include in the scope of work (as appropriate) the impacts of climate change and requirements and costs of climate resilience on the utility as a component of the bidder’s work and requests.

L Deos moved, G Braun seconded. Approved by the following votes:  
Ayes: Braun, Deos, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost  
Noes:  
Absent: Bystrom, Williams

**E. Review of Subcommittee to Develop a Vision for Integration of Davis Utilities**

Motion: To approve the dissolution of the Subcommittee to Develop a Vision for Integration of Davis Utilities.

E Roberts-Musser moved, G Braun seconded. Approved by the following votes:  
Ayes: Braun, Deos, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost  
Noes:  
Absent: Bystrom, Williams

Subcommittee dissolved.

**F. Downtown Plan Subcommittee**

Motion: To appoint Linda Deos and Johannes Troost to a subcommittee on the Downtown Plan, and to ask them to attend the presentation on the Plan on October 24, 2019 and report back to the Commission.

G Braun moved, L Deos seconded. Approved by the following votes:  
Ayes: Braun, Deos, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost  
Noes:  
Absent: Bystrom, Williams

**7. Commission and Staff Communication**

- A. Long Range Calendar** - Two items will be brought back to the Commission for discussion: the creation of a subcommittee to review the possibilities of the City self-generating power at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and an update from the Subcommittee on Recycling and Solid Waste, and discussion of the Reserve Policy will be added to the December agenda.
  
- B. Unscheduled Long Range Items Discussion** - Adjourned until next meeting by consensus.
  
- C. Wastewater Utility Presentation Preparation** - Will take place in November, and will include discussion of water conservation impacts on wastewater utilities.

**8. Adjourn**

L Deos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J Troost. The motion passed by the following votes and adjourned at 8:47 pm:

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

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom, Williams