



City of Davis
Utilities Commission Minutes
Remote Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
5:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Gerry Braun, Andrew Cullen, Linda Deos (Chair), Steve Gellen, Lorenzo Kristov, Elaine Roberts-Musser, Johannes Troost

Commissioner(s) Absent: None

Council Liaison(s) Present: None

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

Also in Attendance: None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Deos called meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Deos, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent:

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

- L Deos read a certificate of recognition for Johannes Troost in his role as departing chair of the Commission.
- J Troost remarked that he appreciated the accomplishments and leadership of the Commission as a whole, and thanked G Braun for his stewardship as former Chair.
- Commissioners took turns introducing themselves and addressing prompt questions.
- E Roberts-Musser provided seven articles for review:
 - *Budgeting for Agricultural Sustainability and Resiliency* - Public Policy Institute of California
 - *California Now Has A Futures Market for Water. Some Farmers Are Skeptical* - capradio.org
 - *Commentary Water Markets Can Reduce the Costs of Drought* - Public Policy Institute of California

- *In Florida city, a hacker tried to poison the drinking water* - Yahoo News
- *San Diegans Are Drowning in Water Debt During COVID-19* - Voice of San Diego
- *Utility Companies Owe Millions to This State Regulatory Agency. The Problem the Agency Can't Track What It's Owed* – ProPublica
- *Video Building Resilience for Cities and Farms with Water Partnerships* - Public Policy Institute of California
- J Troost discussed one item:
 - A presentation on Tuesday, February 23 from Kim Stanley Robinson, hosted by Cool Davis, starting at 7:00pm. The presentation is free and open to the public, and includes discussion of the elements of the presenter's book on climate change. Registration information can be found at cooldavis.org.
- G Braun discussed one item:
 - Information on a city that converts organics to biogas, and uses that biogas for energy. The city requires that residents put food waste in the disposal. The information demonstrates that whether food waste should be put in the disposal or not is a matter open to debate, and the discussion may be included as a future agenda item.
- S Gryczko provided one update:
 - The City Council has initiated the process to adopt their 2021-2022 goals and priorities. A goal setting session will be held on March 23, 2021, and Council will consider an updated goals document on April 6, 2021. The Council has requested commission workplans be provided to inform their discussion on March 23. Staff will coordinate providing the workplans to the City Council. The workplans will provide an overview of commission activities, focus areas, and objectives. If commissions do not have formal workplans, a summary may be provided of commission priority focus areas and tasks for the upcoming year.
- A Heinig provided one update:
 - An update to the charge for construction water use will be brought to City Council on March 16.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Consent Calendar

A. **Utilities Commission Draft Meeting Minutes** – January 20, 2021

B. **Utilities Commission Draft Meeting Minutes** – December 16, 2020

C. **Monthly Utility Bill Breakdown for Average Single-Family Residence** (*Informational*)

E Roberts-Musser moved, G Braun seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. Approved by following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Deos, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent:

7. Regular Items

A. Approval of Updated Commission Procedural Guidelines

The item was introduced by L Deos, who thanked Commissioners who submitted comments related to the Procedural Guidelines.

Discussion also included the following:

- Additional minor changes requested by E Roberts-Musser, including:
- Addition of the word *provide* in the last sentence of Item No. 2: Agendas should also *provide* clear recommendations for outcomes of the item under discussion.
- Within sub bullet A in Item No. 2, the addition of the phrase *requiring a motion* after “whether the item is an action item” so the sentence reads: When presented by staff, agenda recommendations should be specific, clear and indicate whether the item is an action item *requiring a motion*, or an informational item.
- Clarification that the language in the Guidelines does not preclude motions being made by Commission members after discussion on an item that had not been included by staff or commissioners in meeting documents.
- The request that the document be revised to use neutral pronouns.

Motion: Approve the Utilities Commission Procedural Guidelines as amended.

Moved by E Roberts-Musser, seconded by J Troost. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Deos, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent:

There was no public comment on this item.

B. Joint Discussion with Council.

The item was introduced by S Gryczko, who provided the background on the topic, including that the Commission is the first to be selected by Council for the most recent round of joint City Council - commission discussions. The meeting will be on March 16. The Commission will work on preparing a slide presentation for the joint discussion, and select a member of the Commission to be the primary speaker. A Heinig provided the draft slides for Commission review and facilitated the discussion with the Commission.

Discussion also included the following:

- **Slide No. 1:** The request that the charge of the commission as presented be summarized by no more than one sentence per section, as the charge language is complicated, and the charge should be as accessible as possible to the members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

- **Slide No. 2:** The suggestion that each action listed by the Commission include listed outcomes of the Commission actions/recommendations.
- **Slide No. 2:** For the discussion of the finalized Commission Vision for Integration of City of Davis Utilities, the Commission requested that staff, the Chair and E Roberts-Musser provide a summary of highlights for the discussion.
- **Slide No. 2:** For the discussion of the recommendations made by the Commission on energy procurement, the Commission requested that staff include the recommendations in the presentation.
- The Commission requested an update on the status of the City's pursuit of 100% renewable power for City electrical services.
- **Slide No. 2:** The inclusion of the recommendations made by the Commission on the on-street yard material pile collection program.
- **Slide No. 3:** Wording adjustments were recommended to further clarify actions taken by the Commission in 2020, as well as detail included to describe the outcomes of each action.
- The commission requested an update on the status of the 2019 Recycled Water Master Plan next steps. In response to a request from the Commission, staff indicated that the Public Works Utilities and Operations Department is the primary City department engaging in the effort.
- **Slide No. 4:** The addition of the Commission as a participant in the update to the City's Climate Action Adaptation Plan
- With the variety of goals associated with the utilities and utility operations, including affordability, reliability, sustainability, innovation, etc., in *addition* to cost, the question of whether Council priorities and goals are clear to the Commission in decisions related to City utilities. Clarification from the Commission indicated that part of the Commission's role, in understanding the factors impacting the City utilities, is to advise the Council on those priorities. Staff indicated that the City Council Goals can act as a guide for the Commission and staff in the review of activities. The Commission also underscores the importance of including context with recommendations to Council.
- The request for further wholistic discussions on factors influencing the utilities, including resiliency, security, etc.
- **Slide No. 5:** The request that the language within the slide be re-worded to emphasize what aspects of each of the listed items the Commission would like to receive feedback on, rather than a simple statement of a topic.
- The understanding that the main focus of the discussion will be Slide No. 5, and a focal point for Commissioner feedback and discussions.
- The request that the City look to consider the affordability, reliability, and environmental impact of utilities not offered by the City. Commission dialogue indicated that discussion of aspects of other utilities not offered by the City fall within the policy-setting jurisdiction of the City Council.

Motion: Linda Deos, Chair of the Utilities Commission, is designated as the primary speaker for the Joint Discussion with Council on March 16.

Moved by J Troost, seconded by E Roberts-Musser. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Deos, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent:

There was no public comment on this item.

8. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar

The item was introduced by S Gryczko, outlining the next meetings of the Commission, including the Joint Discussion on March 16 with Council. It was requested that Commissioners let staff know if they do not intend to attend the Joint Discussion.

Discussion included the following:

- Cement is the producer of 7% of GHG emissions, and the City contracts for a great deal of cement in contracts. Consideration of whether the Commission or another Commission should look into the possibility of incentives or other opportunities to cut down on the amount of cement in City contracts.
- A suggestion to review the Long Range calendar.
- Three items to include in the workplan discussion: garbage disposals and their use, computer hacking and utility security risks, and the integration of City utilities.
- A request that the Commissioners submit topics for the workplan discussion to staff.

8. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the Utilities Commission meeting at 7:53pm.

Moved by J Troost, seconded by L Kristov. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Deos, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent