



**City of Davis
Utilities Commission Minutes
Remote Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Gerry Braun, Andrew Cullen, Linda Deos (Chair) - *left meeting during Item 6C*, Steve Gellen, Lorenzo Kristov, Emma O'Rourke-Powell (Alternate), 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, Assistant to the Director
Dawn Calciano, Conservation Coordinator

Also in Attendance:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Deos called meeting to order at 5:31pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

G Braun moved to approve the agenda, seconded by L Deos. 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

- E Roberts-Musser provided four items for Commission review:
 - Fact sheet: Utilities like PG&E want to stop California's solar progress – Save California Solar
 - Comments of Ahmad Faruqui on the Proposed Decision Revising Net Energy Metering Tariff and Subtariffs
 - Schwarzenegger: We Put Solar Panels on 1 Million Roofs in California. That Win Is Now Under Threat - New York Times Guest Essay

- California bills aim to help communities create resilience, cut emissions with microgrids and DERs - Microgrid Knowledge
- L Deos mentioned a conversation she had with Andrew Kim, regarding the new health center being constructed by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The project would include a microgrid concept and be sustainable, and would be a great example in the County of how to build resilience into a facility.
- S Gryczko mentioned a resolution passed by City Council on Tuesday (January 18) in regard to the State's recent proposed decision related to net energy metering.
- In response to a question from the Commission, S Gryczko provided an update on the status of moving City power to VCE Ultra Green. A short delay in the process related to cleaning up the list of meters and power sources, and conversations with PVUSA, and PG&E has postponed staff returning to Council with the recommendation to move to Ultra Green power. He indicated that staff would provide an update when it was completed.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Utilities Commission Minutes - December 15, 2021

J Troost moved, L Deos seconded, to move the Consent Calendar. Approved by following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

6. Regular Items

A. Water Utility Fund and Water Use Efficiency Legislation Update.

The item was introduced by S Gryczko, who provided a short presentation on the status of the City's water fund, and included Dawn Calciano, who provided an update on ongoing State water use efficiency legislation.

Discussion included the following:

- Clarification on what has occurred to create the gap between expenditures and revenue. Staff indicated that the City has seen overall small but increasing water use each year, which has a subsequent impact on revenue, while expenditures have been reduced related to COVID-19 impacts and capital improvement project (CIP) improvements.
- Concern that the discussion at the Finance and Budget Commission (FBC) related to the use of excess cash-in-hand for the utility should have

included the Utilities Commission as well, especially as the FBC and UC have different areas of focus and have collaborated before.

- In response to a Commissioner question related to potential future impacts on water supplies, staff indicated the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA), which provides surface water to the cities of Davis, Woodland, as well as UC Davis, is actively looking for water supplies (both short-term and long-term agreements). The City is also looking at aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), additional wells or well head treatment, and to complete an update to the integrated water resources study to understand the costs of the actions from a planning level.
- In response to a Commissioner question about balancing multiple priority issues, staff indicated that currently the utility does not have priorities that staff are unable to address. If it should occur, the City can augment staffing resources with consultants.
- When asked if excess water revenue could be directed to address imminent hazards rather than provide a loan to the Stormwater Utility as proposed, staff indicated that utilizing Water funds to address the needs of the Stormwater Utility is critical, and there are no competing uses for those funds at this time.
- Staff indicated that supply chain disruptions and inflation are impacting the utility, as costs are increasing in a number of areas.
- It was requested that staff provide an update with a list of priority projects for all utilities moving forward.
- The observation that patterns for workers will not be going back to business as usual. With more workers remaining at home, the City may see changes in water revenue. Staff indicated they have observed reductions in water use, and that revenue trends are watched carefully.
- State reporting requirements for water loss.
- Budget line items for capital improvement projects, and work on the Well 30 connection.

No public comment was received on this item, and no formal action was taken.

B. Chair/Vice Chair Elections and Status of Subcommittees and Liaison Appointments.

The item was introduced by A Heinig, who provided a summary of the discussion at the meeting in December 2021 on elections, and reminded the Commission of the intent to include subcommittee assignments as a topic to review.

Brief discussion included the following:

- Appreciation for G Braun in his role of Vice Chair for the Commission in 2021.
- L Deos and A Cullen voiced appreciation for the nominations from the Commission and indicated their interest in the roles of Chair and Vice Chair for 2022.
- The title of the subcommittee focused on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan currently underway was renamed: Climate Action and Adaptation Planning and Implementation Process.

Motion: to nominate Andrew Cullen to be the Vice Chair of the Utilities Commission for 2022.

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

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

Motion: to nominate Linda Deos to be Chair of the Utilities Commission for 2022.

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:

No public comment was received on this item.

C. Community Resilience Subcommittee Next Steps

This item was introduced by L Kristov, who provided an update on the work of the Community Resilience Subcommittee, centered on resilience hub concepts, and how to make such a project happen in Davis. He indicated that the key component of the resilience hub concept is having its own power source. He also indicated the subcommittee is asking the Commission to authorize the subcommittee to give a presentation to City Council on resilience hubs and their value. The subcommittee would also ask City Council to kick off an initiative to conduct a resilience hub project for Davis, specifically to develop a plan to take advantage of State funding. He concluded that the development of a resilience hub is urgent, as climate impacts have already been observed.

L Deos left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Discussion included the following:

- The importance of the City of Davis showing leadership as a community, in building energy independence and local power.
- CAAP priority discussions, and the rejection of a hub project as a top priority. There was also concern that the CAAP has been weaker on adaptation planning, and that the Council is looking for such projects.
- In response to a question about funding, L Kristov indicated that the subcommittee had not yet looked into restrictions on the funding for the building of hub projects.
- County-wide resiliency discussions that indicated the need for resilience hubs in the main cities of Yolo County.
- Thanks to the subcommittee for their work.
- Direction to the subcommittee to return to the Commission in February with the draft presentation to Council for discussion.
- The request to provide an update to the Councilmember liaison to the Utilities Commission in advance of sending the request to the full Council.

Motion: the Utilities Commission authorizes the Community Resilience Subcommittee to submit a letter to City Council requesting to be placed on an upcoming City Council agenda to discuss a resilience hub project for Davis.

Moved by L Kristov, seconded by S Gellen. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, O'Rourke-Powell,
Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos

D. 2021 Year in Review

This item was introduced by A Heinig, who clarified the intent of the "fast facts" section of the staff memo, and indicated that the articles shared by E Roberts Musser are by no means a comprehensive list of the articles, webinars and other resource materials shared by the Commission over the last year. She also indicated that in addition to sharing the summary of actions taken by the Commission in 2021, the discussion was also focused on asking the Commissioners to provide feedback and suggestions on improvements for 2022.

Discussion included the following:

- The importance of looking at creating equity between all people in the community when setting rates, and the best practice to ensure that groups

understand the effect of rate changes, rather than just talking about the average citizen.

- Consistency in discussions was indicated as a priority, with skipping months in rate reviews creating inefficiencies and impacts on the rate setting timeline.
- The Chair was encouraged to be more aggressive in meeting management.
- Appreciation for the level of detail and care of each part of the utility rate study process, and how the current process provides a better understanding of how things work and what is impacting rates.
- The request to collaborate with other commissions on shared topics of interest.

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar

The item was introduced by S Gryczko, who outlined the next few months for the Long Range calendar.

Discussion included the following:

- The request to include an item on the agenda for February for the Community Resilience Subcommittee
- To add the wastewater fee connection update discussion on April's agenda.

No public comment was received on this item, and no formal action was taken.

8. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the Utilities Commission meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Moved by J Troost, seconded by A Cullen. The motion passed by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, O'Rourke-Powell,
Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos