



**City of Davis
Utilities Commission Minutes
Remote Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Gerry Braun, Andrew Cullen (Acting Chair), Julie Knudsen, Lorenzo Kristov, Elaine Roberts Musser, Johannes Troost

Commissioner(s) Absent: Steve Gellen

Council Liaison(s) Present: Bapu Vaitla

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Director - Public Works Utilities & Operations
Adrienne Heinig, Assistant to the Director

Also in Attendance:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Chairperson Cullen called meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. Swearing in of New Commissioner

Julie Knudsen was sworn in as a regular member of the Commission.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Gellen

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

- E Roberts Musser provided a brief update on the work of the Urban Forest Management Plan with the Tree Commission, and ten articles for Commission review.
- Councilmember Vaitla introduced himself to the Commission.
- S Gryczko provided updates on:

- Storm response. He indicated the City received upwards of 13 inches or rain, but breaks in weather allowed the City's stormwater system to function as expected. Trees coming down in the wind was the largest impact, and teams were working around the clock to address issues.
- South Davis Library/Resilience Hub. He recapped the discussion of the City Council on Tuesday night related to the South Davis Library, including the potential to include a resilience hub as part of the building construction. He indicated that if the County is supportive, incorporating the hub could be part of the discussion.
- BrightNight. He indicated that he had not had any communications around possible projects at the BrightNight site, although the agreement is still active.
- Valley Clean Energy UltraGreen Tariff. He indicated that the City has moved forward with the effort to ensure all City accounts that can be moved to the VCE UltraGreen Tariff have been moved.
- A Cullen stated that he was now in Colorado full time, and appreciated his time with the Commission when he was in Davis.
- Julie Knudsen introduced herself to the Commission.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Utilities Commission Minutes - November 16, 2022

Prior to the approval of the Consent Calendar, one minor edit was provided for the minutes of November 16, 2022 (J Troost should have been included in the tally of the last vote for the evening). J Troost made a motion to move the Consent Calendar with the revision, seconded by G Braun. Approved by following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Gellen

6. Regular Items

A. Replacement or Redesign for H Street Pump Station Check-in.

The item was opened by S Gryczko, who provided background on the discussions related to the H Street Stormwater Pump Station, and the need for updating the station based on its age and condition. He indicated that staff would be presenting the options under consideration for the station to the City Council on February 21, and would request that Council direct staff to pursue the revised option (no direct measures for future climate change impacts, but leave prepared space to add an additional pump if needed) as presented for addressing the station's needs. He reviewed the alternative options previously reviewed by the Commission at the

meeting in November and outlined the revised approach based on the Commission and community feedback.

Commission discussion included the following:

- Moving forward with the repairs to the station and waiting on the construction of a detention basin allows for the City to continue to track the flows and work to adjust stormwater flows within the system to understand how best to address the changing nature of storms.
- The age of the H Street Pump Station, and the challenges associated with the maintenance of an asset that was built over 70 years ago.
- Work is being done to assess the needs of the H Street Pump, specifically in looking at improvements to the City's stormwater channels (Channel A and the F Street Channel) which could inform future developments (if applicable), and could be called upon to aid the City to move rapidly with planning in a unpredictable environment.
- Changes proposed for the station, including switching the pumps to electric, adding a second pump and ensuring varying sizes of pumps (to allow for pumping to begin with lower flows) that would be implemented based on current design standards. Adjustments for climate change impacts completed in the near term would include preparing the station for an additional pump if necessary.
- Details of the project, including the plan for backup power, would be discussed as the preliminary design review and design phases of the project get underway.
- That staff would look for grant opportunities once a design is completed to offset the cost of construction.

MOTION: To recommend the third alternative as presented by City staff to replace Stormwater Pump Station #3 (H Street Pump).

E Roberts-Musser moved, seconded by J Troost. The motion was approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Gellen

No public comment was received on this item.

B. Cost of Service Studies Update.

The item was introduced by S Gryczko, who provided a brief presentation on the status of ongoing cost of service studies and fund updates for each of the City's utilities.

Commission discussion included the following:

- When asked why Recology would look for a detailed rate review, staff responded that with inflation and a few years of providing service, it would be timely to review the cost. Illegal activities undertaken in San Francisco by a former public works director and Recology service provider were also briefly touched on.
- When asked about posing questions for Recology related to service, including getting energy equipment recycled and the material recovered, staff indicated that the best time to address the questions would be during the next contract negotiations coming up in 2026-27, which would include more discussions of resiliency actions and what the community would like to see moving forward.
- Staff clarified that the current contract with Recology allows for annual increases (based on the Refuse Rate Index - RRI, at about 3% each year), what the increase would be based on in the detailed rate review, and how it could be implemented would be conversation with City staff.
- Staff indicated it would be likely a year until starting discussions around the City's waste hauling franchise agreement, which is up in 2027.

The item was opened for public comment and one comment was received:

- Name not provided: Chastised staff for not being prepared for Commissioner questions. Indicated if staff had done the work, comments from the Commissioners would not be necessary. Asked the Commission to take initiative and consider what would happen if Recology were to approach the City with rates that are unsuitable. Mentioned that on NextDoor, people complain about Recology, and the Commission needed to stand firm.

No formal action was taken on this item.

C. Chair/Vice Chair Elections.

The item was introduced by A Cullen. As not all members of the Commission were present at the meeting, it was determined that the item would be moved to the next meeting.

MOTION: Table the item to be the first item on the agenda at the next meeting.

Moved by A Cullen, seconded by G Braun. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Gellen

No public comment was received on this item.

D. Return to In-person Meetings & Meeting Start Time.

The item was introduced by A Heinig. After brief discussion, it was determined that the Commission agreed by consensus to keep the regular meeting time at 5:30pm.

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

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar

The item was introduced by S Gryczko. Upcoming items for discussion included the Chair/Vice Chair election in March. It was requested that staff provide information on the total energy consumption for all City accounts at a future meeting.

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

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:05 p.m.