



City of Davis
Utilities Commission Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Blvd., Davis CA 95616
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
5:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Steve Gellen, Julie Knudsen, Lorenzo Kristov,
Elaine Roberts Musser, Johannes Troost

Commissioner(s) Absent: Gerry Braun

Council Liaison(s)
Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Gellen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Braun

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

- S Gryczko provided an update on the City's water outlook. He indicated that the Commission would see an update in May. Current outlook was positive, because of the precipitation and dense snowpack, but water use efficiency would always be a way of life in California. He indicated that City messaging would adjust away from temporary drought measures to long-term water efficiency. He outlined that recent action by the Governor of California to allow for agencies to pull water for groundwater recharge would not be applicable to Davis. In response to questions from the Commission, he indicated that updates on long-term storage studies looking at aquifer storage and recovery

(ASR) and an update to the City's Integrated Water Resources Study (IWRS) would be coming to the Commission within the next few months.

- E Roberts Musser provided a last update on the work of the Urban Forest Management Plan with the Tree Commission including a note from staff to thank liaisons for their participation, and four articles for Commission review.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Meeting in Person: Changes to Meeting Process

J Knudsen made a motion to move the Consent Calendar, seconded by J Troost.

Approved by following votes:

Ayes: Gellen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Braun

6. Regular Items

A. Chair/Vice Chair Election.

The item was opened by A Heinig, who outlined the standard practice for electing a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2023 Commission year. After brief discussion, the following motions were made:

MOTION: To elect Steve Gellen as chair of the Utilities Commission for 2023.

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

Ayes: Gellen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Braun

MOTION: To elect Julie Knudsen as Vice Chair of the Utilities Commission for 2023.

J Troost moved, seconded by S Gellen. The motion was approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Gellen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Braun

No public comment was received on this item.

B. Commission Workplan Update.

The item was introduced by A Heinig, who reviewed the current Commission workplan, updated in 2022, and offered suggestions on items to remove, as the work had been completed.

Commission revisions to the Workplan included the following:

- Adding the item “Participation in and influence on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Implementation” to ongoing projects.
- Removing the items:
 - o Discovery effort of metrics of value to develop to aid in understanding health and resiliency of City utilities (report card of how to compare costs with other communities and our own improvements in service) - No action is anticipated on this item over the next year
 - o Explore opportunities for addressing the digital divide- No action is anticipated on this item over the next year
 - o Update to City sewer connection fees for new development - completed
 - o Review template request for proposals for comment/feedback - completed

Commission discussion also included:

- When asked about the renewal of the City’s waste hauling franchise agreement, staff indicated that it would be included in a future workplan for the Commission; however as the Utilities Commission did not exist the last time the contract was updated, staff would request that City Council provide direction on how the process might go.
- How the City would be involved (or not) with the design phase of the South Davis Library project, specifically to include a resilience hub in the project. Staff indicated that as the project is ultimately the responsibility of the County, any suggestions on the project should be offered to the City Council to share with the County.
- That some cities have hired staff specifically for focusing on energy and related topics.
- The possibility of further adjusting the Commission scope to include reference to energy. Staff indicated that a review of utility resiliency was underway, which would include process improvements to generate power savings, how to shave peak energy demand times, and looking at operations as a whole. Staff advised the Commission to consider carefully what would be the goals in recommending the addition of energy to the enabling resolution of the Commission, including focusing on achievable

tasks. Commission discussion included being careful not to short-change the City's four utilities for something outside of the City's control.

- The suggestion that the City look to utilize the assistance of an intern for work needs outside of current staff bandwidth.

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

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar

The item was introduced by A Heinig. Discussion included the possible cancellation of the April meeting, which would mean a resilience hub and water update for May. It was requested that L Kristov check in with Valley Clean Energy (VCE) staff to see if a presentation could be provided to the Commission in April. If no presentation could be scheduled, the April meeting would be cancelled.

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

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:10 p.m.