



**City of Davis**  
**Utilities Commission Minutes**  
**Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Blvd., Davis CA 95616**  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**  
**5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Gerry Braun, Steve Gellen (Chair), Julie Knudsen (Vice Chair), Lorenzo Kristov, Elaine Roberts Musser, Johannes Troost

Commissioner(s) Absent:

Council Liaison(s) Present: Bapu Vaitla (arrived at 5:45pm)

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Director - Public Works Utilities & Operations

Also in Attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gellen at 5:31pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

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

Noes:

Absent:

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

- S Gryczko provided a brief update on the work underway to provide energy resiliency at the City's water well sites via distributed energy resources.
- In response to a question about the use of herbicides in the City, S Gryczko provided a brief overview of the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and policy.
- E Roberts Musser provided three articles for Commission review.

**4. Public Comment**

No public comment was received.

## 5. Consent Calendar

A. **Utilities Commission Minutes** (Meeting: February 15, 2023)

B. **Utilities Commission Minutes** (Meeting: March 15, 2023)

C. **Commission Workplan Update**

J Knudsen made a motion to move the Consent Calendar, seconded by S Gellen. It was noted that S Gellen abstained from the vote to approve Item A, and G Braun abstained from the vote on Item B. Approved by following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain: S Gellen (Item A); G Braun (Item B)

## 6. Regular Items

A. **Presentation from Valley Clean Energy.**

The item was opened by L Kristov, who provided background on the process to initiate Valley Clean Energy (VCE), and introduced Mitch Sears, VCE's Executive Officer, to give a presentation on current and upcoming projects.

Brief discussion included:

- A request from Councilmember Vaitla to understand if the Commission would be interested in looking at how the City could potentially ramp up to VCE UltraGreen service possibility with City subsidizing. He also asked about looking into how to encourage ramping up participation in energy storage.

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

B. **Community Resilience Subcommittee Check-in.**

The item was introduced by E Roberts Musser, who provided an update on the activities of the Community Resilience Subcommittee including a meeting with the City Council subcommittee on the South Davis Library project. She outlined the discussion around resiliency hub funding (\$400,000 allocated in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds towards Climate Resilience Hub/Climate Action Needs) and requests from the Council subcommittee to look into additional grant opportunities and a more detailed definition of a resiliency hub. Proposed next steps for the Commission subcommittee included a request to identify a point person with the City/County to discuss further.

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

**C. Interest in Future Energy Topics.**

The item was introduced by S Gellen, who explained that the topic was meant to understand if the Commission was interested in having more discussions related to energy and energy use. S Gryczko reviewed previous scope overlap concerns between the Utilities and Natural Resources Commissions and the request that Council provide direction to clarify commission charges when there is overlap in focus. Councilmember Vaitla discussed the suggestion that Council may look to different commissions to address components of the recently adopted Climate Action and Adaption Plan (CAAP) depending on their enabling resolution, and expressed interest in providing Council direction on which commission could include energy in their scope. Additional discussion included the Brown Act and 2x2 meetings.

*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 S Gryczko. Discussion included adding the formation of the Energy Resilience Subcommittee to the next available agenda as requested by Councilmember Vaitla. In addition, Councilmember Vaitla also requested the Commission consider forming a subcommittee to review questions related to utility user taxes, including looking at the experiences of other communities with utility user taxes, any equity issues that might arise from such a tax, challenges with utilities, and why some tax measures pass while others fail. It was requested that the subcommittee request also be placed on the next available agenda.

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

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:51 p.m.