



City of Davis
Utilities Commission Minutes
Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Blvd., Davis CA 95616
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
5:30 P.M.

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

Commissioner(s) Absent: Gerry Braun, Johannes Troost

Council Liaison(s) Present: Bapu Vaitla left at 7:00pm

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 by Chairperson Gellen at 5:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Ayes: Gellen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser

Noes:

Absent: Braun, Troost

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

- S Gryczko provided updates on Council action the previous evening, including the action to move sprinkler irrigation restrictions to three days per week, and action on an application to apply for financial incentives to install a battery storage system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was requested that staff return to the Commission with a resiliency discussion for utilities at a future meeting.
- E Roberts Musser provided four articles for Commission review.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Memo of Appreciation to Commission Liaisons Regarding Work on the Urban Forest Management Plan

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

Approved by following votes:

Ayes: Gellen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser

Noes:

Absent: Braun, Troost

6. Regular Items

A. Water Utility Financial Update, Water Supplies & Water Use Efficiency Legislation Update.

The item was opened by A Heinig, who along with S Gryczko provided a detailed presentation on the financial status of the City's Water Utility for fiscal year 2021-2022, an update on water supplies and information on upcoming water use efficiency legislation.

Discussion of the Commission included:

- Clarification on how revenue for each of the water funds can be spent.
- Questions around the volume of water being used in the community, and a request to provide more information to property owners to show water use compared to other similar sized properties.
- Background on the current guidance for setting reserve targets for utility funds.
- With the need to purchase water supplies, adds a level of risk if supplies run low (as with the most recent drought) and additional cost. Could review reserve policy to determine if water should include additional component.
- Expansion from staff on the work towards understanding if the City is a good candidate for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR).
- When asked about the levels of the City's aquifer, S Gryczko indicated the City's groundwater supplies are steady.
- Appreciation was expressed for the work of the City and Commission to ensure that utility funds are on the right track.

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

B. Establishment of Subcommittee on Utility User Tax.

The item was opened by S Gryczko, who provided background on the discussion from the April Utilities Commission meeting related to the request of the Commission to establish a subcommittee to review certain questions related to the City's consideration of a Utility User Tax (UUT).

Councilmember Vaitla expanded on the Council Subcommittee request for the Commission to form a subcommittee and asked the Commission (in addition to what was previously discussed) to also look into low-income exemptions for UUTs in other communities, how data collection is or is not undertaken for low-income households, and what legal barriers there might be or requirements for the information. He also outlined the vision of a community engagement process as a key component of revenue measure discussions.

After a brief discussion, the Commission took the following action:

MOTION: To create a subcommittee on the Utility User Tax along the directions of memo provided from staff, with the subcommittee comprised of Steve Gellen, Gerry Braun and Elaine Roberts Musser.

L Kristov moved, seconded by S Gellen. The motion was approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Gellen, Knudsen, Kristov, Roberts Musser

Noes:

Absent: Braun, Troost

No public comment was received on this item.

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar

The item was introduced by S Gryczko. Discussion included the addition of a utility resiliency discussion at a future meeting, a report out from the UUT Subcommittee in June, the request that updates from Subcommittees be included as a regular item on the agendas moving forward. In response to a question, staff indicated that no update had been provided on Commission recruitment.

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

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:16 p.m.