



MINUTES
UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Richland City Hall Council Chamber

Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting – 3:00 P.M.

Chair Lo Presti called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Attendance: Chair Lo Presti, Vice Chair Larkin, and Committee Members Porter, Staven and Miller were present. Also present were Staff Liaison and Energy Services Director Whitney, Council Liaison VanDyke, Fire & Emergency Services Director Huntington, Fire Battalion Chief VanBeek, Deputy Fire Chief Aust, Business Services Manager Edgemon, Fire & Emergency Services Analyst Auchmoody and Administrative Assistant Palomarez.

Approval of Agenda

MEMBER PORTER MOVED AND MEMBER STAVEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

MEMBER LARKIN MOVED AND MEMBER PORTER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2023 MEETING MINUTES WITH THE REQUESTED AMENDMENTS. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Public Comments

None.

Items of Business

1. Status- Each City Utility

Energy Services Director Whitney provided a status on AMI electric and water. He stated that electric is over 90% installed and water is 50% installed with 10,000 out of 20,000 completed. Itron and Keystone have resumed water and electric meter installations and billings have been correct. He reported that staff is working on a customer portal where usage and outage maps would be accessible by customers. Mr. Whitney responded to questions from members.

2. 2024 Medical Utility Rate Setting

Fire Battalion Chief VanBeek discussed the 2024 Medical Utility Rate Setting recommendation. He reported rates have been held at \$10 per month for the last two years which is longer than originally forecasted. He stated that Council and the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) members have indicated small incremental increases would be preferred over steep, infrequent adjustments. Mr. VanBeek said there is also the potential to lose GEMT funding with many unknown factors, and it is projected

that a possible 25% decrease (\$400,000) in these funds may exist, and Station 77 has been added to the City's Capital Improvements Projects. He stated the utility is seeking an endorsement on the 2024 monthly household Ambulance Utility Fee increase which will raise rates from \$10 to \$11.47 per month effective January 1, 2024, and the UAC unanimously agreed to this recommendation previously. Mr. VanBeek responded to questions from members.

3. BPA Provider of Choice Discussions for 2028 Contracts

Energy Services Director Whitney communicated that there are 134 public power entities supplied by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Public Power Council (PPC) and Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU) continue advocating for the City and other public power entities during discussions for post 2028 wholesale power and transmission contracts as there is not always consensus within the entities. Mr. Whitney provided a proposed BPA timeline for the 2028 contracts and informed members that the 2028 wholesale power and transmission contract with BPA and each public entity, including the City, will look similar to the existing 2008 contract with a Tier 1 and Tier 2 basis of a tiered rate methodology (TRM). Mr. Whitney responded to questions from members.

4. Reliability Statistics-

Energy Services Director Whitney presented an update on electric reliability. The data shows areas of potential renewal and replacement capital projects for 2024. The presentation provided information on data from 2020-2023 regarding outages by category, group and year. Mr. Whitney answered questions from members.

5. Energy Services (RES) Capital Work Plan Update

Energy Services Director Whitney presented financial data from the RES Capital Work Plan (CWP). He followed up by identifying significant areas of capital work, which included Smart Grid Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), System Improvements, Renewals & Replacements, Substation Improvements, and Line Extensions. He provided a presentation summarizing the 2023 CWP through April. Mr. Whitney concluded by responded to questions.

6. Energy Services Supply Chain Status

Energy Services Director Whitney stated that electrical distribution infrastructure continues to have supply chain delays; in particular, electrical transformers have the greatest impact on inventory deliveries. Mr. Whitney reported that distribution transformers on order have an estimated availability in 2024 and into 2025. He concluded that RES' two substation transformers will be installed at Sandhill Crane Substation and Thayer Substation Bank 1, replacing a 1948 vintage transformer. Mr. Whitney responded to questions from members.

Unfinished Business

None.

Other Informational Items

The following items from the forward-planning agenda were provided to Members for review and discussion at future meetings:

- Capital Improvement Plan (July)
- Resource Adequacy and Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) (September)
- Electric Services Rate Recommendation (November)
- Election of UAC Chair and Vice Chair (January)
- Electric Cost of Service Analysis (COSA) (January)

Adjournment

Chair LoPresti adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Charles Lo Presti
Charles Lo Presti, UAC Chair

Karla Palomarez
Karla Palomarez, Administrative Assistant

DATE APPROVED: July 11, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: July 17, 2023