



MINUTES

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chamber

625 Swift Boulevard

Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting – 3:00 p.m

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

Attendance: Chair Charles Lo Presti, Vice Chair Dave Larkin, Committee Members Roy Miller and Harry Staven were present. Also present was Council Liaison VanDyke, Staff Liaison and Energy Services Director Whitney, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Fire Battalion Chief (BC) Van Beek and Administrative Assistant Carpenter.

Dan Porter was excused.

Approval of Agenda

CHAIR LO PRESTI MOVED AND MEMBER STAVEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Minutes

1. Approval of the May 9, 2023 Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes.

MEMBER STAVEN MOVED AND MEMBER LARKIN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 9, 2023 MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Public Comments

None.

Items of Business

2. Status of Each City Utility

BC Van Beek provided updates relating to the Medical Utility budget, call volumes for 2023, new staffing recruits, Fire Station 6 progress, and new ambulance acquisitions. BC Van Beek responded to questions from Members.

Director Rogalsky shared updates relating to the annual water sampling program, wastewater and stormwater capital projects, water line extensions, and solid waste landfill capping. Members inquired about chemicals within the water supply, and Mr. Rogalsky explained how chemical contaminants are being regulated.

Director Whitney presented an Electric Utility update relating to AMI electric and water meter installations and stated installations are expected to be complete in December and February, respectively. He additionally reported the high pressure sodium streetlights around the City have been replaced with LEDs, Capital Work Plan current expenditures are currently 12% of the 2023 capital budget, a new substation expansion will be located near City Shops, and the boring and conduit replacement project is taking place near the airport. There were no questions by Members.

3. Results of 2023 Electric Revenue Bond Issue

Mr. Whitney explained what elements contributed to the decision to issue revenue bonds in 2023. He stated that the Utility's bond rating was lower than the state average due to the Utility not raising rates in several years. He further stated that a rate increase is expected to be recommended in 2024.

Mr. Whitney responded to questions.

4. Net Metering Study with Washington Public Utility District Association (WPUDA)

Mr. Whitney informed Committee Members about a Net Metering Study being prepared by WPUDA, which represents several utilities within the Pacific Northwest, including City of Richland. Energy Environmental Economics (E3) will be facilitating the net metering study beginning late summer 2023, and staff anticipates providing Members the results early in 2024.

Members asked questions with staff responding.

5. PURPA I I I d Requirements to Consider Additional Demand Response (DR) and Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Programs

Director Whitney explained what PURPA is and the recent changes to PURPA requirements relating to Utilities consideration of expanding offerings for demand response and electric vehicles. He shared what programs the Utility is currently offering and what programs would be offered soon, including thermostats that work with a demand response programs, although the Utility does not currently offer a demand-response or time-of-use program.

Members reflected on past UAC conversations relating to demand response usage. Further questions were raised about programs being offered to all customer rate classes.

Unfinished Business

None.

Other Informational Items

The following informational handouts were provided to Members:

6. Capital Work Plan Update – May 2023
7. Draft Capital Improvement Projects for 2024-2030
8. Resource Adequacy – 3rd Annual Webinar by WA Utilities and Transportation Commission and WA Department of Commerce
9. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Status
10. Forward Planning Agenda Items

Adjournment

Chair Lo Presti adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Prepared by: Jackie Carpenter
Jackie Carpenter, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by: Clint Whitney
Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

Approved by: Dave Larkin
Dave Larkin, Vice Chair

DATE APPROVED: September 12, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: September 21, 2023