



MINUTES

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 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 3:02 pm.

Attendance: Chair Charles Lo Presti, Vice Chair Dave Larkin, Committee Members Roy Miller, Daniel Porter, and Bill Richmond were present. Also present were Staff Liaison and Energy Services Director Whitney, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Fire Chief Huntington, Council Member Van Dyke, and Administrative Assistant II Mata.

Harry Staven was excused.

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes

1. Approval of the September 12, 2023 Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes.

CHAIR LO PRESTI REQUESTED THE MEETING MINUTES STATE THE MEETING WAS HELD IN QUORUM. MEMBER MILLER MOVED AND MEMBER LARKIN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES WITH THE REQUESTED CHANGE. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Public Comments

None.

Items of Business

2. Status of Each City Utility

Director Whitney provided details from the pre-application meeting with Atlas Agro on November 11, 2023. Director Whitney also mentioned he will go into more details about the status of the AMI project, 115 kV transmission line, and preliminary results of the Energy Environmental Economics (E3) Study. Director Whitney provided an update from the NRU meeting in Portland. A BPA contract will be drafted in 2024 to renew the contract expiring in 2028. Director Whitney responded to questions from members.

Director Rogalsky shared updates related to water utility changes, annual water sampling program update, the status of the capital sewer plant project and shared details about Atlas Agro and potential water utility services that will be provided after completion of facility. There was a discussion about EPA regulations and fire-retardant chemicals found in the drinking water. Director Rogalsky also provided an update related to the Solid Waste division. The landfill gas plant is set to start-up in one to two weeks, and Solid Waste division is in the middle of fall clean-up. Director Rogalsky responded to questions from Members.

Chief Huntington provided updates around Fire Station 76 progress that is anticipated to open in 2024. There may be an ambulance rate increase for 2024 and the increase will be brought to Council in Q1 of 2024. The Strategic Plan will also need to be updated in 2024. Chief Huntington thanked UAC members for their support. There were no questions by members.

3. Tri-Cities 115kV Transmission Network Load Modeling & NW Regional Resource Forecast

Director Whitney presented load modeling for the 115kV transmission expansion. He went over Tri-Cities' current load capacity details and referenced the graphs provided in the packet. Director Whitney responded to questions from members.

4. Energy Environmental Economics (E3) – Draft Net Energy Metering Report

Director Whitney provided an update to the E3 Net Metering Study. He went over the cost benefit for net metering and referenced the slides for key information from the draft NEM report. Director Whitney responded to questions from members.

5. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project Status

Director Whitney provided an update to the AMI project. The remaining electrical and water meters are expected to be delivered and installed between December 2023 and February 2024. There were no questions by members.

6. Director Whitney briefly went over upcoming items for January 2024. The items mentioned are the election of UAC Chair and Vice Chair, electric rate increase recommendation, E3 Net Metering Final Report, and the Low-Income Program.

Unfinished Business

None.

Other Informational Items

7. Tour of Biogas Facility at Landfill
8. AMI Benefits to Customer – March 2024
9. Reliabilities Stats and Inventory Spares – May 2024
10. Resource Adequacy
11. Tour of Fire Station 76

The following informational handouts were provided to Members:

12. Capital Work Plan Update – October 2023
13. 2023 BPA Tri-Cities Load Analysis
14. 2023 PNUCC NW Regional Forecast – Page 9 – Figure 6 Peak Capacity Load and Resources
15. WA Utilities NEM Evaluation – Draft Results 2023-10-31
16. AMI Water and Electric Meter Installation Status
17. NRU Meeting Notes – October 31, 2023-November 1, 2023

Adjournment

Chair Lo Presti adjourned the meeting at 4:58 pm.

Prepared by: Arturo Mata
Arturo Mata, Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: Clint Whitney
Clint Whitney, Energy Services Director

Approved by: Charles Lo Presti
Charles Lo Presti, Chair

DATE APPROVED: January 10, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: January 10, 2024