MINUTES
Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

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

Chair Staven called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Attendance:	Chair Staven	Present
	Vice-Chair Hyson	Present
	Member Larkin	Present
	Member Porter	Present
	Member Richmond	Present
	Member Wallin	Absent

Also present were Staff Liaison and Energy Services Director Whitney, Fire Chief Aust, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, and Administrative Assistant II Kirkpatrick.

Approval of Agenda

COMMITTEE MEMBER PORTER MOVED AND VICE-CHAIR HYSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Minutes

1. Approval of the March 10, 2026 Utility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBER PORTER MOVED AND VICE-CHAIR HYSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 10, 2026 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Public Comments

None.

Items of Business

2. Status of Each Utility (10 Minutes

Fire Chief Aust, Public Works Director DAlessandro and Energy Services Director Whitney each provided a brief update regarding their respective utilities.

3. Energy Services Reliability Data Update

Energy Services Director Whitney introduced Trevor Wilkerson, Electrical Systems Manager, who presented an update on Energy Services' electrical reliability data. He reported that system reliability continues to improve, with Richland customers experiencing fewer outages than the average utility customer. Noting that restoration times can be slightly longer due to the City's predominantly underground electrical system. Reliability data will continue to guide future capital planning efforts for 2027.

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included with the agenda packet.

Following the presentation, Committee members engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff.

4. Cascade Advanced Energy Facility Project Update

Ken Langdon, Energy Northwest Project Director and Vice President for Nuclear Development, provided an update on the Cascade Advanced Energy Facility Project. Mr. Langdon discussed the company's ongoing reorganization and optimization efforts in establishing a robust supply chain to support future energy initiatives.

Following the presentation, Committee members engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Langdon.

5. Horn Rapids Solar Power Purchase Agreement

Scott Russell, Senior Advisor with Energy West, provided an update on the proposed Horn Rapids Solar expansion project and associated Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Discussion included project deposits and recovery provisions if power is not delivered, as well as BPA interconnection costs, with the developer requested to cover the deposit. Mr. Russell also noted the project would support the City's renewable energy requirements while reducing transfer charges through a local power source.

Following the presentation, Committee members engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff and Mr. Russell.

COMMITTEE MEMBER LARKIN MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER RICHMOND SECONDED THE MOTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR THE HORN RAPIDS SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (PPA) AND RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGREEMENTS UPON COMPLETION OF LEGAL REVIEW AND NEGOTIATIONS. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

6. Richland Energy Services Financial Quarterly Report – 4Q25

Energy Services Director Whitney provided an overview of the 4Q25 financial report, noting that the Energy Services department remains financially stable despite continued increases in wholesale power and transmission costs from Bonneville Power Administration. Members discussed the recent 8.5% retail electricity rate increase that went into effect in January, which is expected to help offset rising costs and support future capital needs. Mr. Whitney also noted that a significant accounts receivable correction is scheduled to be settled in 2026, which is expected to have a positive financial impact.

7. 2026 Capital Work Plan – Energy Services (Skipped due to time constraints)

8. Forward Agenda

Discussion between Committee members and staff regarding water and wastewater facilities that rely on low-interest loans with the need to explore strategies to reduce dependence on those funding sources if such loans become more limited.

The Committee requested to review the rate policy and develop a long-term strategy during a future workshop.

Chair Staven moved to request a special workshop at 2:00 p.m. before the next meeting to review these topics in greater detail. The Committee was supportive of the request.

Adjournment

Chair Staven adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Prepared by: Carly Kirkpatrick
Carly Kirkpatrick, Administrative Assistant II

Approved by:
Harry Staven, Chair

DATE APPROVED: 7/14/2026

DATE PUBLISHED: 7/17/2026