



Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

City Council Chambers | 50 Natoma Street, Folsom CA 95630
September 20, 2022
6:30 PM

Call to Order

Vice Chair Groat called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: D. Groat, T. Widby, A. Silva, Z. Akhter, D. Kozlowski, M. Menz

ABSENT: B. Mutchler

STAFF PRESENT: Marcus Yasutake: Environmental & Water Resources Director
Mark Rackovan: Public Works Director
Emma Atkinson: Administrative Assistant, EWR

Business from the Floor

None.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the July 19, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Silva motioned to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Kozlowski seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Groat, Widby, Akhter, Menz.

ABSENT: Commissioner Mutchler

ABSTAIN: None.

Question

Commissioner Akhter reported that a few residents had mentioned discoloration in toilets (a dark ring) and asked whether this was related to changes made following pinhole leaks, or due to water hardness.

Director Yasutake responded that he hadn't heard of any increase in reports of this nature, but offered possible reasons for discoloration (plumbing changes, city flushing in the area), and invited Commissioner Akhter to inform residents that they could contact the department directly for further investigation.

Directors' Reports

Director Rackovan

Staffing: There is hope that the 2nd Environmental Specialist position will be filled in October, which will result in the Recycling team being fully staffed for the first time since February 2021. Following two resignations, the solid waste division continues to seek more drivers but is struggling to find and attract qualified candidates. The department is also handling recruitment associated with staff resignations of the Administrative Assistant and the Hazardous Materials Maintenance Specialist.

Commissioner Menz:

- What are the work hours for drivers? Could retirees be hired in part-time positions? *Drivers work from 5 or 6 am until noon or later; there are part time positions, and the department will follow up on this approach.*

Commissioner Widby:

- Are bins being filled? Is a weekly collection schedule an effective approach? *It varies by location, but they are generally not being filled as much as before. Weekly collections are required to address concerns about odor and pests.*

Expanding Green Bin Program: Communities that already have green bins are using them, and the program is now expanding into other communities which previously did not have green waste cans. Enthusiasm for the program in these areas is varied. Restricted space in some neighborhoods is being addressed by use of 'Can Zones' (where bins are left on collection days).

Truck Orders: While supply chain issues are subsiding, there is a tremendous backlog of orders. Six solid waste collection vehicles were ordered last year; the chassis of these have been built, but no delivery date is yet available. 16 more collection vehicles, including 2 electric vehicles, are being ordered this year.

New Rates: The department is experiencing operational impacts of new rates going into effect. There is a backlog of work associated with the removal or exchange of approximately 5,000 cans and consequent bill component updates.

Director Yasutake

Staffing: The vacancy in the Utility Maintenance – Water division has been filled. Due to a planned retirement in December, there is a current Water Treatment Plant Operator 3 position that has been advertised. It is hoped that the new person can be hired in time to allow some overlap with the current employee to allow for training. The department's Engineering Technician is due to leave in October; the associated job description is in the process of being refined to include more GIS based functions with a view to being advertised later in September.

Future Meetings: At the November meeting, Director Yasutake will present information on a community wide discussion on "Folsom's Water Future" to obtain input from the Commission, in advance of presenting to City Council early next year.

- Commissioner Widby expressed his support for this idea.

Director Yasutake notified the Commission that the December meeting is scheduled for the week of Christmas. The Commission is therefore encouraged to consider availability of a quorum for the meeting. This can be discussed at the October meeting.

New Business

Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668 Discussion – Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life

Director Yasutake provided an update on the two policy bills, both intended to address long term conservation and drought planning.

Questions from the Commission:

Commissioner Menz:

- How was the current target (55 GPCD) calculated? This question was posed to state representatives, but no explanation was provided in response. *DWR did complete pilot studies. As part of these studies, Flume devices were used to track water usage data on 20 homes in Folsom for a period of 3 months.*

Commissioner Menz:

- Has the methodology of collecting the data and associated targets been challenged by agencies? Yes; *Agencies have tried questioning targets, but they still passed at the level of the legislature.*

Commissioner Widby:

- Is there a consequence of not meeting targets? *After an initial letter of information, there will be opportunity to provide an explanation. If there is no action to correct, an issue of violation can be issued, along with fines.*

Commissioner Groat:

- Is the City considering any outreach to the industrial manufacturing community? *Once the City has detail, outreach will likely be tailored to specific companies. The City is working on setting up an internal dashboard for customer specific data, as well as looking at what various companies offer for setting up budgets by parcel for residential and non-residential outdoor water use.*

Commissioner Groat:

- Do we talk about floods anymore? Are we not building any more storage? *A flood control project was recently completed for Folsom reservoir. SAFCA (Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency) is the local agency that works with Army Corps of Engineers on any flood risk, and they are currently working on a proposal to take excess winter water to other areas, on to land or into the groundwater aquifer.*

Commissioner Menz:

- What is the status of the proposed new reservoir in Northern California? *Sites Reservoir - I think they are in the process of doing their environmental work as they received funding.*

Adjournment

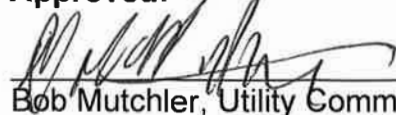
Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted:



Emma Atkinson, Administrative Assistant.

Approved:



Bob Mutchler, Utility Commission Chair.