



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

City Council Chambers | 50 Natoma Street, Folsom CA 95630
October 18, 2022
6:30 PM

Call to Order

Chair Mutchler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: B. Mutchler, Z. Akhter, D. Kozlowski, M. Menz

ABSENT: D. Groat, T. Widby, A. Silva,

STAFF PRESENT: Marcus Yasutake: Environmental & Water Resources Director
Ryan Chance: Acting Public Works Director
Marie McKeeth: General Services Manager, Public Works
Emma Atkinson: Administrative Assistant, EWR

Business from the Floor

None.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the September 20, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Menz motioned to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Kozlowski seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Mutchler, Akhter.

ABSENT: Commissioners Groat, Widby, Silva.

ABSTAIN: None.

Directors' Reports

Marie McKeeth

Truck orders: There is no change in status. The delivery date for the 6 trucks ordered in FY22 is still unknown; PW is still working on the contract for 16 trucks to be ordered in FY23.

Rate increase: This is still impacting operations. Many cans have been successfully retrieved from households. These are now being sorted for disposal or reuse.

Staffing: The new Environmental Specialist started on October 1st so the recycling team is now (finally) fully staffed and as of November 1st administration will also be fully staffed. There is still an issue with driver vacancies. Due to retirements, there are new recruitments for a Senior Maintenance Worker (one of 2 lead roles for the drivers) and for

an Environmental Specialist in the Hazardous Materials division. These will be treated as high priority as absence of the roles severely impacts the department and programs. Expansion of Green Waste program: Commercial roll out is expected to be complete in early November. Work with communities with limited space is continuing, with efforts to find and develop community specific solutions.

Commissioner Mutchler:

- Are any of the vacancies for 'lid-flippers'? *The Environmental Specialist team is responsible for lid-flipping. Those positions have been filled, but there will likely be some additional part-time positions.*

Commissioner Menz:

- Do lid flippers get PPE? *Yes; we provide PPE for all drivers, including gloves and grabbers. Employees won't actually touch waste; they do a quick visual, and poke around. The department is also looking into training to help deal with angry residents.*

Ryan Chance introduced himself as interim Public Works director in Mark's absence.

Director Yasutake

Interviews are currently being scheduled for hiring a WTP Shift Operator in preparation for an anticipated retirement in December. There has been a good number of applications. The department's Engineering Technician has resigned. EWR is working with Finance, Public Works, and HR to convert the Engineering Technician position to a GIS Tech position to better reflect the position's responsibilities and current tools.

Commissioner Mutchler:

- Is there a new job description and pay scale for the GIS Tech position? *The job description will change slightly (less Auto Cad and more GIS/Esri) but pay will not change.*

On Thursday October 20 there is a media event for the state driven 'Save Our Water' campaign. A front yard transformation of landscaping at 503 Natoma Street was completed using funding from a Regional Water Authority rebate program that incentivizes to upgrade landscapes with more efficient irrigation and drought-tolerant plants.

Director Yasutake asked the Commission about the December meeting, which is scheduled for the week of Christmas.

Commissioner Menz motioned to cancel the December meeting.

Commissioner Kozlowski seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Mutchler, Akhter.

ABSENT: Commissioners Groat, Widby, Silva.

ABSTAIN: None.

Director Yasutake advised that the November meeting will therefore be the last meeting of the year for the Commission. Given that council members are up for re-election, their appointees have expiring terms. Commissioners were asked to respond to the email from the City Clerk to provide notice of whether they intend to continue serving on the Commission. Director Yasutake shared that Commissioner Groat has already provided notice that he is stepping down. Chair Mutchler announced that, after 9 years of service, he is also intending to resign from the Commission. Director Yasutake thanked him for his time on the Commission.

New Business

2022 Water Loss Control Program

Director Yasutake provided a presentation regarding the Water Loss Control Program, and supporting work being performed by the consultant E Source.

Questions and Comments from the Commission:

Commissioner Menz:

- Is there hourly data on meter usage? Commissioner Menz expressed concern about the accuracy of the meter at his home, and whether there is a possible leak? *Yes – for most meters, we have access to hourly reads. Emma will follow up directly with Commissioner Menz.*
- Have we thought about upgrading the software used for billing? *That might be a recommendation of the consultant. The challenge is finding out what software is available and also compatible with other current systems.*

Commissioner Mutchler:

- It seems that a cost saving might be achieved by implementing different billing software and processes. (This was supported by Commissioner Menz). *Yes; it would save staff time.*
- Are grants or financial assistance offered for identifying water loss? *There is financial assistance for disadvantaged communities, for which Folsom does not qualify.*
- Does the volume going through the meters affect meter accuracy? *It can, depending on meter type, so meter selection is based on the intended use is important.*
- Is metering incoming water as important as metering outgoing water? *It is for the purpose of reporting to the State.*
- Is there random testing of meters, or are all being tested? *A small sample will initially be tested for the purpose of demonstration, followed by set up of a testing program and protocols.*
- How long does it take to test one residential meter? *Director Yasutake offered to find out; he explained that the process involves pulling multiple meters and taking them to the meter test bench to be tested after which meters would need to be reinstalled or replaced.*
- Do we currently have any known major leaks? *There are no main line leaks (these are generally more noticeable and catastrophic), but there are some service line leaks.*
- Do we have opportunity for any input in the water loss standards being adopted by the State Water Board? *Yes – through RWA and ACWA.*

Next Meeting

Director Yasutake provided notice that he will present information at the November meeting relating to the “Folsom’s Water Future” project, to get feedback from the Commission.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted:



Emma Atkinson, Administrative Assistant.

Approved:



Bob Mutchler, Utility Commission Chair.