



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

City Council Chambers | 50 Natoma Street, Folsom CA 95630
February 21, 2023
6:30 PM

Call to Order

Director Yasutake called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: L. Ladd, M. Menz, A. Ross, A. Silva, B. Vempati, T. Widby

ABSENT: Z. Akhter.

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

Business from the Floor

None.

Oath of Office

Commissioners Ladd, Menz, Ross, Vempati and Widby took the oath of office.
Director Yasutake thanked all Commissioners for their participation.

Introduction of Commissioners

Each member of the Commission briefly introduced themselves.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Silva moved to nominate Commissioner Menz as Chair of the Commission.
Commissioner Ross seconded the nomination.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Ladd, Menz, Vempati and Widby.
ABSENT: Commissioner Akhter

Commissioner Menz moved to nominate Commissioner Silva as Vice-Chair of the Commission.
Commissioner Widby seconded the nomination.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Ladd, Ross, Silva, and Vempati.
ABSENT: Commissioner Akhter

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Widby motioned to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Silva seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Ladd, Menz, Ross, and Vempati.

ABSENT: Commissioners Akhter.

ABSTAIN: None.

Directors' Reports

None

New Business

- **Ethics Training:**

Director Yasutake reminded Commissioners of the required training.

- **Utility Commission Purpose and Functions:**

Director Yasutake explained that the roles and responsibilities of the Commission are set out in the Folsom Municipal Code. He advised Commissioners of the main topics that are brought before the commission, namely rate studies, master planning studies and the annual budget. Any items that are required to be adopted by Council are initially brought to the Commission for overview and concurrence.

- **Brown Act:**

Commissioners were reminded of their responsibilities under the Brown Act, especially with the use of electronic communication.

- **Utility Commission Roster:**

Commissioners were asked to provide notice of any necessary corrections to the roster.

- **Topics for the Year:**

Director Yasutake shared a draft calendar of items for discussion at Commission meetings during 2023 and invited Commissioners to put forward requests and suggestions for other items for discussion.

Commissioner Ross requested the items drafted to be discussed in May be moved to June, as she anticipates not being able to attend in May. The Commission agreed to the request.

- **Public Works Department Overview:**

Director Rackovan provided information on the roles and functions of the Public Works Department, focusing on the Waste and Recycling division which falls within the purview of the Utility Commission. He invited Commissioners to find out more about the department by going on a ride along in a solid waste collection vehicle or visiting the traffic management center at City Hall.

Director Rackovan also provided information about Senate Bill 1383 (the mandated organics recycling program) and its impact on operations of the department, including an update on the status of roll-out.

Questions and Comments from the Commission:

Commissioner Silva: Is there a timeline for enforcement? *The objective is to stay educational/informative for as long as possible.*

Commissioner Menz reiterated the need for PPE for enforcement staff.

Commissioner Ross requested clarification that current fee increases meet the needs to cover department costs. *Confirmed.*

Commissioner Ross: Has there been discussion with the Planning Dept. about issues with zero lot lines, and the need for future development to accommodate cans? *Yes; Solid Waste staff met with Planning staff in December to explain the mandate and request that developers of new communities incorporate strategies to accommodate the rules.*

Commissioner Ross: Has there been any discussion of zero lot communities sharing green cans? *Yes, but there can be other issues that develop from this approach that also have to be considered.*

Commissioner Silva requested information on the current lifespan of Fleet vehicles. *Fleet is in transition mode. Another State mandate is fleet electrification. No new fuel combustion vehicles may be manufactured or sold as of 2035, so the City is currently researching and experimenting with some hybrid vehicles and electric vehicles. Many current vehicles are past their service life so need to be updated. The infrastructure needed to charge a fully electrified fleet is not in place. Implementation needs to consider plans to relocate the City Corporation Yard to a new site South of 50.*

Commissioner Menz: Has the City considered all the small motor devices (blowers, weed eaters, landscaping tools, small generators, pumps etc. including Jaws of Life) that are also affected by the State mandate, and how many of these will need to be replaced? *Public Works does not utilize many of those types of assets, but this is something that will need to be considered particularly by Parks Department field maintenance crews.*

• **Environmental and Water Resources Department Overview:**

Director Yasutake explained the difference between Rate Funds and the General Fund, and that most discussion at the Utility Commission relates to Rate funded projects. He then provided an overview of the Environmental and Water Resources Department, and the roles of the various divisions within the Department. Utility Commissioners were invited to tour the Water Treatment Plant.

Questions and Comments from the Commission:

Commissioner Ross: Are plans, such as the Water Management plan, available online, and are any due to be updated? *Yes, they are on the City website. The department is currently discussing the schedule, as there are some updates due within the next couple of years.*

Commissioner Ross: What is the age of pipes in the City, and the age of the Water Treatment Plant? Is aging infrastructure the main focus of the projects? *Projects may be based on age of infrastructure (especially in old town area), but also based on infrastructure condition (in the case of tank maintenance) or based on experience and*

knowledge of staff (repeat problem locations). Staff identify priority projects based on evaluations of the conditions. There is ongoing project work at the Water Treatment Plant to build in redundancy and to increase the volume of water (without expanding the footprint of the Plant).

Commissioner Menz: Has there been any thought about the impact of residents increasing use of garbage disposal rather than using their organics waste can for disposal of organics? *This is something that can be investigated.*

Adjournment

Chair Menz advised that the next meeting is March 21.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emma Atkinson, Administrative Assistant.

Approved:



Mark Menz, Utility Commissioner Chair.