



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

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

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

PRESENT: Z. Akhter, M. Menz, A. Ross, A. Silva, B. Vempati, T. Widby

ABSENT: L. Ladd

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

Business from the Floor

None.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the February 21, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Widby motioned to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Silva seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following vote:

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Ladd.

ABSTAIN: None.

Directors' Reports

Director Rackovan had nothing to report.

Director Yasutake reported that both departments are currently recruiting for GIS technicians.

Commissioner Menz: Is GIS taught in local colleges? Yes.

Commissioner Silva: Have recent storms impacted either department?

Director Rackovan responded that, for Public Works, the immediate impact was work clearing fallen trees etc. from roads. It is anticipated that, in the long term, there will be damage to roads due to water seepage undermining the subbase. Public Works did

perform an emergency modification to the Natomas ditch in the Parkway area, to redirect floodwater away from homes.

Director Yasutake responded that, specifically for the storms over New Year, Wastewater staff monitored in-flow at pump stations. Power lines on E. Natoma were damaged by strong winds in last month's storm, affecting power to the Water Treatment Plant. Back-up generators were used so there was no impact on service, but some repairs were required after power was restored. The increased inflow and higher turbidity of water in the lake due to the storms does result in the need for a greater volume of chemicals to be used in the treatment process.

Commissioner Menz asked about the repairs required at the Plant due to the power outage, and availability of replacement parts. *Director Yasutake said he would gather more detail on this.*

New Business

- **Public Works Fiscal Year 2023-24 Preliminary Operations and Maintenance Budget:**

Director Rackovan introduced Marie McKeeth to the Commission.

Marie McKeeth provided an update on the financial status of the Waste and Recycling Divisions in Fiscal Year 2022-23, summarized requests for the Fiscal Year 2023-24, and responded to questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Menz asked about the outlay identified for electric vehicle charging, and knowledge of the performance of electric garbage trucks. *The identified costs include a charger for 2 trucks, but also the infrastructure to charge up to 20 vehicles. Whether to install fast or regular chargers is still under consideration. Marie confirmed that she has ridden in an electric truck but does not have specific knowledge of their performance when working a collection route. Public Works is purchasing two electric garbage trucks, specifically as pilot vehicles; one side loader for residential and one rear loader for bulky waste. There is grant funding associated with electric vehicle purchasing.*

Commissioner Widby asked about possible recourse if electric garbage trucks do not fulfil requirements: *There are some standard specifications that the trucks would have to meet.*

Commissioner Silva asked about the State mandated deadline for vehicles to be powered by electricity. *2035 is the year for passenger vehicles. 2045 is a possible date for heavy duty vehicles and is a more gradual target.*

Commissioner Menz commented that the deadline for small engines is of greater concern.

Commissioner Silva asked about the MOU negotiations. *Local 39 negotiations are complete; Mid-management is in process. The majority of Public Works employees are in Local 39.*

Commissioner Akhter: *Why are vehicle costs included in the current budget when the vehicles are not expected to be delivered until 2 years from now? The funds must be encumbered as a commitment has been made to purchase the vehicles.*

- **Environmental and Water Resources Fiscal Year 2023-24 Preliminary Operations and Maintenance Budget:**

Director Yasutake provided a summary of the budget schedule and explained that funding for water and wastewater operations is mainly through collection of rates from customers.

He then presented detail of the preliminary operating budget for the department, explaining that the capital budget will be covered at the next meeting. The presentation included information from Finance of revenues collected as of November 2022.

Commissioners asked for clarification of a couple of items on the reports (sundry revenue and delinquent fees). *Director Yasutake will confirm details with Finance and report back to the Commission.*

Commissioner Menz: Is there still legal action against the City related to the pinhole issue and is there an amount in the budget associated with this? *Yes; it is still in litigation. Costs comes out of the City's risk management fund.*

Commissioner Silva: Why is there such a great increase in the costs of chemicals used at the Water Treatment Plant? *Vendors have referenced the rising costs of raw materials, in addition to increases in processing costs and fuel.*

Commissioner Ross asked about budgeting for increased chemical costs, with reference the impact of storms. *Director Yasutake responded that costs are reviewed on an annual basis, but he was not sure whether there has been a month to month comparison to see the impact of the recent storms. City Council recently approved an appropriation of funds to help cover the increased costs within the current fiscal year. The proposed budget includes a PLS to cover the anticipated increased costs in FY2023-24.*

Commissioner Ross asked about the increase in cellular costs in the Wastewater budget. *This is mainly associated with the SCADA upgrades.*

Commissioner Ross asked for clarification about the budget process. *Director Yasutake explained that departments are asked to review line items in their budgets, maintaining the overall budget for the fund (with the exception of known salary and benefit increases). This is returned to City Manager, Finance and HR to review, along with any requests for changes.*

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emma Atkinson, Administrative Assistant.

Approved:



Mark Menz, Utility Commissioner Chair.