



CITY OF
FOLSOM
JUST ABOVE BY NATURE

Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

City Council Chambers | 50 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630
March 19, 2024
6:30 PM

Call to Order

Chair Menz called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Z. Akhter, A. Ross.

STAFF PRESENT: Marcus Yasutake: Environmental & Water Resources Director
Marie McKeeth: General Services Manager
Emma Atkinson: Management Analyst, EWR

Business from the Floor

None.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the October 17, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Widby motioned to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Vempati seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Ladd, Menz.

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Silva.

ABSENT: Commissioners Akter, Ross.

Directors' Reports

Public Works:

- The only vacant positions currently in the department are for two Environmental Specialists. The recruitment for these has just ended so interviews will be held within the next few weeks. One will be dedicated to the Recycling team and the other will be split between the Recycling team and the Household Hazardous Waste Collection team.

- All new vehicles have been received except two electric trucks, for which delivery dates keep being moved back. The electric trucks are currently expected by the end of this month.
- The department is currently working on a City-wide re-route of residential routes to accommodate the growth of the City. A city-wide re-route has not been carried out since routes were created in 2005, so a lot of changes are anticipated. The aim is to roll out the new routes in July.
- The department has recently completed a consolidation of commercial recycling routes. SB1383 requires mixed recycling service universally so cardboard bins have been converted to mixed recycling, and businesses without recycling bins will soon be contacted. Associated costs are included in the budget for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Menz: If we are moving to mixed recycling, does this mean that it now needs to be sorted? *Yes. Currently all recycling is sorted, but the sorting of cardboard alone is cheaper and provides a net revenue which offsets overall costs. Now, with universal mixed recycling, the material has no net revenue and processing is more expensive.*

Commissioner Menz: And this is a requirement of 1383? *Yes.*

Commissioner Vempati: Is sorting manual or mechanical? *All recycling goes through a combination of manual and mechanical sorting. Residential also uses some optical sorting technology.*

Commissioner Menz: Is sorting done by a third party? *Yes.*

Environmental and Water Resources:

- There are currently two vacancies: a Water Management Specialist and a Water Utility Worker III. Interviews for the Water Management Specialist are this week, and we are working with HR on the job description for the Water Utility Worker III.
 - *Please note a correction to the statement above. In addition to the Water Management Specialist position there are currently openings for a Water Utility Worker I-II and a Water Distribution Operator I-II. HR is currently working on updating the job descriptions for both these positions.*
- City Earth Day is on April 20. The city is hosting a festival outside 48 Natoma Street from 11am to 1pm. The Water Conservation team and Recycling team will be participating in the event.

Commissioner Menz: Is there a way to know if there has been an increase in organics in the sewer system due to people increasing use of their disposal? *There might be a way if the wastewater stream was being tested, but the City doesn't do that. We can see if SacSewer has noticed any difference.*

New Business

- **Public Works Fiscal Year 2024/25 Preliminary Operating Budget.**

Marie McKeeth provided a presentation of the proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 operating budget for Solid Waste.

Director Yasutake reported that the City received approximately \$139,000 through an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. These funds may be applied towards the purchase of zero emission vehicles.

Commissioner Vempati: Does the City currently have any fully electric vehicles in the fleet?

McKeeth: Yes; vehicles used by solid waste admin staff are electric, EWR has an electric van (for sewer inspection) and two Chevy Bolts (used by Water Conservation), and Police have a couple of Teslas. There are also hybrid vehicles used for City Hall pool cars. Of these, only the Lightnings and the Vans would potentially count towards the 50% requirement.

Director Yasutake: The department is looking at which vehicles can be replaced by ZEVs, such as Lightnings, in order to meet Advanced Clean Fleet requirements. Vehicles used by the meter division, for example, do not need to be as large as others, or carry the same weight. Lightnings could therefore be purchased for use by the Meter Division to offset the purchase of non-electric vehicles.

Commissioner Vempati: What is the timeline to meet the *Advanced Clean Fleet* requirements? *From the beginning of calendar year 2024, 50% of purchases of all vehicles of over 8,500 lb. GVW need to be zero emission, so we are currently under this regulation. At some point in the future, 100% of these purchases will need to be zero emission. Hopefully by then there will be more electric vehicles that have been tested and are available, or more exemptions.*

- **Environmental & Water Resources Fiscal Year 2024/25 Preliminary Operating and Capital Improvement Plan Budget**

Director Yasutake provided a presentation of the proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 operating and capital improvement plan budget for the Environmental and Water Resources Department.

Commissioner Vempati: Are there any incentives from the City for water conservation? *Yes, there are various rebate programs:*

- *Cash for Grass – Turf Replacement Rebate.*
- *Irrigation Efficiency Upgrade Rebate.*
- *High Efficiency Toilet Rebate.*
- *Rachio Smart Controller Rebate.*
- *Flume Smart Home Water Monitoring Device Rebate.*

Details of all can be viewed on the City website.

Commissioner Widby: Will we begin seeing expenses for capital projects south of 50? It would be useful to see the funding sources for work south of 50. *We shouldn't see any City funded capital expenses south of 50 for many years. All the infrastructure that the City owns, operates, and maintains is public*

infrastructure. The revenue collected from residents is used to maintain or replace the water and wastewater infrastructure. There is not a separate bucket for funds for south of 50, except for one item, which is for increasing capacity of the Water Treatment Plant.

Adjournment

The Commission was reminded that the meeting in April is the next Water Vision meeting. This will be in the Police Department training room.

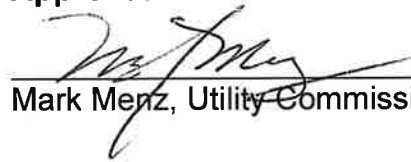
The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emma Atkinson, Management Analyst

Approved:



Mark Menz, Utility Commissioner Chair.