

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission on August 1, 2022 at 4:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street. The meeting was an in-person meeting with teleconferencing available via Zoom. Votes were conducted in person and by roll call.

A. ATTENDANCE & CALL TO ORDER

Present: Adekunle Ojo, Chairperson
Steve Stockton, Vice Chairperson
David Garcia, Commissioner
Chandrasekar 'CV' Venkatraman, Commissioner
Zachary Travis, Commissioner
Robert Meals, Commissioner

Absent: Thomas Breitzkreuz, Commissioner

Staff: John Harris, Municipal Utilities & Engineering Director; Johana Silva, Commission Liaison/Assistant Engineer; Kevin Watson, Utilities Operations Manager; Kyle Wagner, Construction Manager; Fernando Mata, Wastewater Operations Superintendent (joined remotely)

Chairperson Ojo called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM, thanked and welcomed everyone for attending, and offered any public present and joining virtually the opportunity to provide comment on any item on the agenda.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None forthcoming.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 6, 2022, were unanimously approved.

Vote: 6 – 0 Passed

D. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Director's Report

Director Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided highlights to his Director's Report.

Updates were provided on the following:

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Water Conservation Rebates: Converting turf grass to synthetic turf typically saves around two-thirds of the total water used based on data of individuals who were issued rebates in the last year. The Governor instituted a mandate restricting the use of potable water to nonfunctional turf. The City has been compiling a list of businesses to educate on the new mandate. Staff has been discussing internally the possibility of increasing the combined rebate cap for all rebates currently at \$500 per customer per fiscal year.

Water System Master Plans: The Water Systems Master Plans (MP) document was provided in the June agenda package for review and comments for possible action at the August commission meeting.

WWTP2 Project Update: WWTP1B is estimated to be complete by the end of this year. For WWTP2, Parsons provided a preliminary construction cost estimate of approximately \$56,000,000 in direct project costs totaling approximately \$90,000,000 for all project elements. MUED staff and Parsons are refining potential bid packages to prioritize projects within the SRF loan amount.

Sunset Reservoir Replacement - Land Lease Agreement: The City and the landowner perform land appraisals individually. The appraisal gap between the two appraisals was massive. A third appraisal will be performed by an agreed independent party.

Water Replacement Project: Phase I of the five (5) year project is wrapping up. A Notice To Proceed (NTP) was issued for the second year of this project. Unrelated to this project, a kick-off meeting is scheduled with Ferguson Waterworks to start implementing the Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project.

PMP Update: The FY 21/22 PMP is complete. The FY 22/23 PMP will be designed in-house.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Update Q3 Update: The FY 21/22 CIPs are concluding and beginning the FY 22/23 phase of the project including the Water Replacement Project, and the Well Rehabilitation & Booster Pump Replacements.

Commission inquiries ensued regarding the AIM replacement, and meters that were bypassed. Mr. Harris clarified the record-keeping system for the water meters which consists of a combination of GIS and Sedaru asset management software. Discussion ensued regarding the long-term sustainability of citrus groves from a water savings standpoint and converting the source of the citrus groves from potable to non-potable water. Mr. Harris clarified the source of funding of CIPs not related to water. Mr. Harris gave an update on the ADA Sidewalk Replacement project.

E. NEW BUSINESS

a. Commissioner Term Renewals

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Commissioners Stockton and Venkatraman were informed that their first commission term is ending this year and were asked their intent for serving a second term. Commissioner Stockton and Venkatraman confirmed their interest in serving a second term on the commission. Mr. Harris stated that a chairperson and vice chairperson are selected by nominations once a year and historically occur in December. Mr. Harris stated that an election was not held in December 2021 and asked the commission how that would like to remediate the issue. A consensus was reached to wait until December to have an election and continue with the current Chairman and Vice Chairman.

b. Water System Master Plan – Discussion & City Council Recommendation

A draft copy of the plan was provided during the June commission meeting for the commission's review. Discussion ensued regarding the treatment of the potable water system wells, restrictions to the recycled water supplied to Edison, reduction of water loss with the meter replacements, the average water facility service life, the average water pipeline service life, the year the potable water system was fully metered, the impact of water rates due to the total cost of the proposed projects and the used of blending regarding groundwater contaminate mitigation. A general consensus was reached to continue the discussion, questions, and comments on the Water System Master Plan to the next commission meeting.

F. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES, AND/OR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items requested for the next regular Commission meeting agenda were as follows:

Water Master Plan, Potable and Non-Potable – Discussion of the proposed citywide master plan for the water master plan, potable and non-potable, for the commission's review during the October commission meeting.

Water Conservation (Citrus Groves) - Discussion of replacing the source of citrus groves currently on the potable water system and the long-term sustainability of orange groves from a water savings standpoint.

Utility Bill Assistance Program – Updated on the Utility Bill Assistance Program.

Commissioner Stockton informed the commission of a potential future 700 acre-feet reservoir north of Mill Creek at an elevation of around 2,300 feet. Mr. Stockton suggested the City explore investing in the reservoir as a backup source of water for the Tate Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Harris informed the commission of a Reservoir Consolidation Study which could possibly add this subject in the scope of the study.

Commissioner Ojo announce that the draft 2023 California Water Plan, updated every five years, will be released in the Fall.

G. ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting is October 3, 2022 at 4:00 PM

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission is scheduled for October 3, 2022.