

# MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission on February 6, 2023 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 (joined at 4:06 PM)  
David Garcia, Commissioner  
Chandrasekar 'CV' Venkatraman, Commissioner  
Zachary Travis, Commissioner  
Thomas Breitzkreuz, Commissioner  
Robert Meals, Commissioner

Absent: Steve Stockton, Vice Chairperson

Staff: John Harris, Municipal Utilities & Engineering Director; Goutam Dobey, City Engineer; Johana Silva, Commission Liaison/Assistant Engineer; Mayor Eddie Tejada; City Council liaison Mario Saucedo; Fernando Mata, Wastewater Operations Superintendent; Jungjoon Park, Joint Utilities Laboratory Manager (joined remotely); Veronica Medina (joined remotely)

Commissioner CV called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

## B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None forthcoming.

## C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Breitzkreuz, the minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 2022, were approved with Chairperson Ojo abstaining.

**Vote:** 5 – 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:

Update WWTP P2 Project Update: The design is near completion, however the cost estimate has increased to \$110M.

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*Water Meter Replacement Project:* Phase II of the five (5) year project began January 30<sup>th</sup>. Ferguson Waterworks subcontracted the installation of the meters to Concord Utility Services.

*PMP Update:* The FY 22/23 PMP is currently in design.

*Annual Citywide Sidewalk/ADA Ramp Replacement Project Update:* The FY 22/23 project is finalized. An award of contract was issued to Tryco General Engineering.

*University Street/Brockton Avenue Traffic Signal:* Currently in construction. Materials have been ordered. Due to supply chain issues, installation is anticipated to begin in late February 2023.

Discussion ensued regarding the compatibility issues of the Neptune meters with the AIM, clarification on what is included in the grant application for the Sunset Reservoir Replacement Project, a description of the Senior Outdoor Dining Project and if the Utility Relief Program is still occurring. Discussions continued with a few requests from the commission. Commissioner Travis requested to discuss projects in multiyear plans before commencing. The commission requested pictures of the projects to be added to the annual report presentation to City Council.

Commissioner Garcia asked how the meter routes were selected. Mr. Harris explained how water meter routes correlate with timelines of the billing cycles and how customers are affected by the meter replacements. Commissioner Garcia asked for clarification on several projects listed in the CIP projects list including the fixed generators on 5<sup>th</sup>, Texas and Country Club, the 1750 Blend Manifold Replacement, Tate Influent Line and the ATP East Valley Corridor Bike Route Interconnect on Alabama. Commissioner Travis asked for additional safety measures to be considered in the ATP East Valley Corridor Bike Route.

Mr. Harris suggested a CIP open house to allow residents to view and comment on projects. The open house would be a summary of projects in the past year as well as a preview of future projects.

## **E. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. MUPWC – Student Commissioner**

Mr. Harris gave an overview of the Student Commissioner process for City commissions. Student Commissioners are appointed by the City Council to serve one (1) year terms beginning January 1 of their Junior year of High School, have full voting powers, and their meeting attendance is counted when determining a quorum. Selecting University students to apply for a Student Commissioner position would require formal justification for the recommendation to the City Council. Adding a Student Commissioner requires an amendment to the municipal code.

Discussion ensued whether a student commissioner should be added, the selection of a college student versus a high school student, allowing voting rights to the student, the ability for a student to understand the technical topics discussed, the benefits of a student joining the commission, the amounts of members in the commission, and the timing of when a Student Commissioner would join. A general consensus was reached for Staff to research further and vet the discussed ideas with the City Attorney and City Manager.

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## b. City Groves – Irrigation Sources

Mr. Harris presented maps of citrus groves in relationship with the service areas of mutual water companies. He stated that many groves are within the boundaries of the service area of different mutual water companies but only some groves use supplied water by the mutual water companies. Mr. Harris stated that the City applied for Title 22 approval to convert the Palmetto Groves to recycled water. The Prospect Park Grove is the next most likely candidate for a transition to a non-potable water irrigation source.

## 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:

San Bernardino Basin Groundwater Council – Update on the City’s costs associate with the San Bernardino Basin Groundwater Council.

Student Commissioner – Requirements and the process for adding a student commissioner to MUPWC.

Councilmember Mario Saucedo introduced himself as the new council liaison for the MUPWC. Mr. Saucedo gave an overview of his background, expressed his gratitude for the commissioner’s service and his willingness to work with the commission.

Chairman Ojo suggested the agenda should make it clear that it is covering solid waste rates, public works, utilities, and engineering programs within the commission’s purview. Mr. Ojo asked the commission to be informed of actions prior to Staff recommending to City Council such as purchases in water shares. Mr. Harris gave an overview of the water shares that were purchased. Mr. Garcia asked if the commission’s ordinance requires bimonthly meetings and expressed his recommendation for special meetings to be scheduled if pressing issues need to be addressed.

## G. ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting is April 3, 2023 at 4:00 PM

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission is scheduled for April 3, 2023.