

# MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission on June 5, 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  
Steve Stockton, Vice Chairperson  
David Garcia, Commissioner  
Chandrasekar 'CV' Venkatraman, Commissioner  
Zachary Travis, Commissioner (joined at 4:02 PM)  
Thomas Breitzkreuz, Commissioner  
Robert Meals, Commissioner

Staff: John Harris, Municipal Utilities & Engineering Director; Goutam Dobey, City Engineer; Johana Silva, Commission Liaison/Associate Engineer; Mario Saucedo, City Council Liaison; Fernando Mata, Wastewater Utility Manager; Jungjoon Park, Joint Utilities Laboratory Manager; Paul Mariscal, Water Operations & Maintenance Superintendent

Chairman Ojo called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

## B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None forthcoming.

## C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Garcia commented on errors in the minutes. On the motion by Commissioner CV, seconded by Commissioner Stockton, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 3, 2023, were approved.

## E. NEW BUSINESS

### a. MUPWC – Student Commissioner

In the interest of time, the order of the agenda was modified, and item E was introduced for discussion ahead of its original placement.

Mr. Harris provided an overview of neighboring communities that have commissions or committees similar to the MUPWC and discussed the involvement of students in those commissions. Subsequently, a discussion arose regarding the possibility of adding a student commissioner, granting voting rights to the student, considering their ability to comprehend technical topics discussed, allowing them to apply for vacancies, and eliminating any limitations on who can serve on the commission. After deliberation, a general consensus was reached to

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retain the current commission structure, with the understanding that the possibility of adding a student commissioner would be revisited annually.

## **D. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **b. Solid Waste Program Update**

Mr. Harris introduced Chris Boatman, the Assistant City Manager, to provide an update on the Solid Waste Program. During the presentation, Mr. Boatman covered the history of solid waste rates, the ongoing process of updating the current rate model, the replacement of aging truck inventory, and the City's contract to optimize truck routes for increased efficiency. Furthermore, Mr. Boatman informed the commission about several landfill projects, including the completion of a new landfill cell two (2) years ago and the pending AQMD permit for upgrading the gas flare. He also mentioned that the current life expectancy of the landfill extends beyond 2060. Additionally, Mr. Boatman provided updates on the City's efforts to comply with the State's mandate requirements concerning organic waste.

### **a. Director's Report**

During the course of the meeting, the commission requested to revisit topics from the previously skipped agenda item D(a) Director's Report.

Director Harris provided the following updates from his Director's Report:

*USFS/San Manuel Tribe Land Swap:* A possible land exchange is being considered between the U.S. Forest Service and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. If approved, there is a concern that the Tribe might redirect water from these drainages that flow into the Bunker Hill Basin.

*Groundwater Council Update:* The initial five (5) year term of the Groundwater Council is coming to an end, and a "Renewal Committee" has been established to update the Framework Agreement. The proposed First Amendment to the Framework Agreement entails a fifty percent (50%) reduction in Redlands' surface water entitlement credit. The City decided not to sign the agreement and, instead, extended the current agreement by one (1) year.

*City Groves:* The City obtained approval from the State to convert the Palmetto groves to recycled water. Additionally, the City has applied for funding to extend a recycled water line to the groves on California Street.

## **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:

Sidewalk Improvement Project— Update on the progress of the project.

Presentations from Water Districts —Updates from water districts agencies regarding projects that are complimentary to the City.

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Meter Replacement Program– Cost saving with the meter replacement program.

Chairman Ojo updated the commission on a few projects in the region. The Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1B project consists of the addition of 20 recharge basins to facilitate capturing and recharging water. San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District is developing the Sunrise Ranch Master Plan master plan for 1,658 acres of undeveloped land. Lastly, the Headwaters Resiliency Partnership aims to identify solutions with water supply challenges in the forest headwaters.

**G. ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting is August 7, 2023 at 6:00 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 August 7, 2023.