

CITY OF REDLANDS
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of December 7, 2020, 4:00 PM
MINUTES

This meeting was conducted as a teleconference meeting. All votes during the meeting were conducted by roll call.

In compliance with public health recommendations to limit public gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic and acting as the City of Redlands Emergency Services Director, City Manager Charles M. Duggan Jr., directed meetings of the Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission (MUPWC) of Redlands be closed to the public until further notice or until the current local State of Emergency has been lifted. The MUPWC will continue to meet to conduct essential business. Public comments, up to 250 words and received by 2:00 P.M. the day before the meeting, were read aloud by MUPWC liaison.

1. ATTENDANCE

Following roll call Commissioners Thoms, Travis and Garcia were not present. Commissioners Ojo, Breitreuz, CV, and Stockton were present. Although a quorum was initially established with four commissioners, Acting Chair Ojo asked to wait a few moments for absent commissioners to arrive. Commissioner Garcia was able to connect via phone only and was on by New Business. A quorum of five commissioners had been established. Toward the end of the meeting, it was noted that Commissioner Travis had joined the meeting at about 4:30 pm. There were 2 numbers that appeared as Attendees in Zoom, one named Christine, and the other was not known. City staff in attendance were as follows: Director of MUED John Harris, Engineering Manager Goutam Dobey, Utilities Operations Manager Kevin Watson, Wastewater Superintendent Fernando Mata, Construction Manager Kyle Wagner, Senior Project Manager Ross Wittman, Water Resources Specialist Cecilia Griego, Liz Boehling, Administrative Analyst (Acting Liaison). Council liaisons Council Member Tejada and Mayor Foster were not present.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Ojo called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and proceeded to select one commissioner, Commissioner CV, to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

One public comment was received by 2:00 P.M. the day before the meeting which was read by Ms. Boehling from Mr. Dennis Bell. Reading from the email, his comment was: "democracy isn't a spectator sport and zoom isn't participatory democracy. It's B.S.! This isn't about health issues. It's about first amendment ones: public participation and dissent, especially when it comes to the publics' pocket books issues. These commissions are operating like the rest of the city is: in a vacuum."

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 5, 2020 regular meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Stockton, seconded by Commissioner Breitreuz and carried 4-0.

5. STATUS REPORTS

A. City Council Liaison Report

With no City Council Liaison on the call there was no items reported.

B. Commission Liaison Report

Ms. Boehling stated there were no items to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome Municipal Utilities & Engineering Director John Harris

Mr. Wittman introduced newly hired Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director John Harris who then provided a brief work and personal background.

B. Welcome Recently Appointed Members Thomas Breitreuz, Zachary Travis & David Garcia & Round Table Introductions

Acting Chair Ojo welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Tom Breitreuz who provided his background leading up to being on the commission. Commissioner Garcia joined the meeting at this point and was asked to provide his brief background. Both commissioners were welcomed/welcomed back to the commission. A round table ensued with Commissioners CV, Stockton, and Ojo providing their backgrounds which followed with staff introductions.

C. Election of Chairperson

The selection of Chairperson for the Commission is conducted annually. Acting Chair Ojo entertained nominations from commissioners. Commissioner CV made a motion to nominate Commissioner Ojo as Chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Breitreuz. The motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote, and with Commissioner Ojo abstaining.

D. Election of Vice Chairperson

The selection of Vice Chairperson for the Commission is also conducted annually. Chair Ojo entertained nominations from commissioners. Commissioner CV made a motion to nominate Commissioner Stockton as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Breitreuz. The motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Wittman provided an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Rehabilitation Project via a PowerPoint presentation. A background of the construction of the WWTP in 1962, upgrades and expansions in 1972, 1987-1989, and 2004, challenges the plant and staff encountered to maintain plant operations, and the recent upgrades resulting in the current state of the plant, was provided by Mr. Wittman. Continued overview of the costs and rehabilitation projects, Phase 1A completed in November 2020, and Phase 1B to be completed in late 2021. A discussion and suggestions ensued which included the funding utilized for upgrades paid via the wastewater reserve budget, clarification of documents or presentations to show how upgrades were/are funded, surrounding land development and growth, updated treatment practices, and current and projected flows/capacity.

8. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

It was requested to have an update on the 5 year capital improvement projects/program, how it is reviewed and implemented, projects in both the planning/design and the construction phases along with general information related to projects, update on master plans for water, sewer and recycled water, general status of the city's involvement in groundwater council and water resources, update on Pavement Accelerated Repair Implementation Strategy program (aka PARIS) and Pavement Management Plan (PMP), recycled water agreement or coordination with Southern California Edison's Mountainview Power Plant.

9. ADJOURNMENT

5:07 P.M.