

Utility Advisory Committee (UAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 2, 2014

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Thad Curtz.

**Roll Call**

- Thad Curtz
- Dever Kuni
- Carol Law
- Lorelei Walker (left at 6:30 pm)
- Chris Ward
- Carole Richmond
- Margaret Drennan
- David Dunn
- Jennifer Sievert
- Steve Fossum
- Michelle Barnett

**Approval of Agenda**

UAC member Lorelei Walker had to leave the meeting early. Chair Curtz proposed to move the utility rate discussion to the beginning of the agenda since a quorum is needed for a recommendation. The agenda was approved with this change.

**Approval of Minutes**

The September 4, 2014 meeting minutes were approved with some minor edits.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Announcements from UAC and Staff**

- The McAllister Wellfield dedication is Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. UAC and members of the public are invited.
- UAC member Jennifer Sievert attended a meeting in October regarding development concerns to the heron rookery along West Bay Drive. The meeting was informational only and no decisions were made. Staff from the City of Olympia were also present at the meeting.
- Chair Curtz opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the UAC. Chris Ward nominated himself. No other nominations were added. The UAC moved to elect Chris as the UAC Vice Chair. The motion passed.
- Chair Curtz will not be able to attend the October 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the advisory committee chairs with the General Government committee. Vice Chair Ward will attend the meeting in his place.
- The sea level rise and climate change discussion is scheduled for the November 6<sup>th</sup> UAC meeting. Right now the item is allotted for 30 minutes. Andy noted that this is the only item for the business of the evening. Andy asked if the UAC would like to spend 60 minutes and go more in depth on the subject. The UAC decided to schedule 60 minutes for this item.
- Committee member Dever Kuni announced that the City received a grant/loan for solar panels on City Hall.

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- Andy distributed a schematic of Moxlie Creek which runs under downtown Olympia and discharges into Budd Inlet. This is in a follow up to the discussion regarding the possibility of daylighting the creek.
- Chair Curtz mentioned the City's involvement in the EPA's grant program for Greening America's Capitols. Capital Way is the focus of the grant to provide a greener and vibrant street. City staff and members of the community held focus groups recently and Chair Curtz was involved. The focus groups were recorded by TCTV. The City will post to their website soon the presentations and schematics from the focus group sessions.

**Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) Update**

No OPC update during the meeting.

**BUSINESS OF THE EVENING**

**Recommendation on the City's Proposed 2015 Utility Rates and GFCs** – Andy Haub, Water Resources Director, presented information on the proposed rates for the City's utilities of Wastewater, Storm and Surface Water and Drinking Water. Dan Daniels, Waste ReSources Director, presented on the proposed budget and rates for Waste ReSources. A four percent rate increase across the four utilities is proposed for 2015.

Summary of the proposed rate increases for the utilities for Water Resources:

Drinking Water	Six percent
Wastewater	Two percent
Storm & Surface Water	Three percent

General Facility Charge proposed rate increases of:

Drinking Water	6.7 percent
Wastewater	No increase
Storm & Surface Water	Ten percent

Summary of the proposed rated increases for Waste ReSources' services:

Service Class	Proposed Increase
Residential	Six percent
Commercial	Four percent
Organics	Eight percent
Drop Box	No rate increase proposed

The UAC had the following comment/feedback:

- Analysis shows the City could increase the GFCs by 6.7 percent, but the City is only increasing them by 2 percent over the next three years. Chair Curtz feels the City could be more aggressive in this charge so that growth pays for growth.

The UAC moved to support staff's proposed rate and GFC recommendations for each of the four utilities. The motion passed unanimously. The UAC will draft a recommendation letter to the City Council.

**Wastewater Volume-Based Billing Proposals** - Diane Utter, Water Resources Engineer, presented information on a proposal for volume-based wastewater tiered rate structure.

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Wastewater volume-based rates have been under consideration by the UAC for several years and are a recommendation of the *2013-2018 Wastewater Management Plan*.

Diane noted that this proposal is for residential sewer customers. Non-residential are already on a tiered wastewater rate structure. She asked the UAC to keep in mind the question: Are the discounts great enough to utility customers to warrant this change in municipal code?

The UAC discussed the three scenarios presented by staff and they moved to support scenario three. The motion carried unanimously. The UAC will draft a recommendation letter to the City Council in support of tiered wastewater rate structure.

**Adjournment**

Chair Thad Curtz adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.