



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501
Contact: Eric Christensen
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Thursday, August 6, 2020

5:30 PM

Online Via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buffo called the meeting to order.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Chair Mike Buffo, Vice Chair Cullen Stephenson, Committee member Dennis Bloom, Committee member Michael Bradley, Committee member Donald Krug, Committee member Kristin Lamson, Committee member Arland Schneider, Committee member Eleanor (Pat) Vernon and Committee member Roger Wilson

1.B. STAFF PRESENT

Water Resources Director/UAC Staff Liaison Eric Christensen
Waste ReSources Director Gary Franks
Susan Clark, Water Resources Engineering and Planning
Kira Holmlund-Nelson, GIS Specialist

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[20-0588](#) Approval of June 4, 2020 UAC Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as amended.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM UAC AND STAFF

Mr. Christensen provided the following updates:

Public Works operations crews continue to work at 100% capacity during the COVID-19 emergency. Office staff are teleworking from home.

A new section in the Storm and Surface Water Utility was created called Vegetation & Habitat Management. The new section is managed by Joe Roush.

Status of other vacancies and recruitments in Water Resources.

Staff will bring the draft agreement with the Community Action Council (CAC) to the Council Finance Committee on September 16th. This item was discussed and approved at the UAC's June 2020 meeting.

The LOTT Clean Water Alliance Board will meet on August 12th to discuss and recommend a 3% rate increase for wastewater treatment fees for 2021. LOTT staff will attend the September 3rd UAC meeting to present the LOTT biennial financial overview.

The Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) approved a 1.7% rate increase for electricity. Mr. Christensen noted that he would keep the UAC informed of any natural gas or electric rate changes, since these rate increases affect Olympia citizens.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

[20-0589](#) Stormwater Rate Structure Project Update

Ms. Clark provided the briefing. The City of Olympia hired a financial consultant to analyze the current Storm and Surface Water utility rate structure. Staff briefed the UAC on the preliminary rate concept for storm and surface water for residential and commercial accounts.

UAC members asked some clarifying questions and then thanked her for the information. The UAC will review the storm and surface water rate structure again in September and will include a recommendation in October in their letter to the City Council.

Information only. No action requested.

[20-0590](#) Utilities Financial Updates

Mr. Christensen and Mr. Franks provided a briefing on the City finances for Drinking Water, Storm and Surface Water, Wastewater and Waste ReSources.

Committee member Wilson requested information on current cash reserves. Staff confirmed they will provide this information to the UAC. Staff will bring further 2021 utility budget and rate information to the UAC's September 3rd meeting.

The UAC thanked staff for the briefing.

Information only. No action requested.

6. ADJOURN

Chair Buffo adjourned the meeting.