

City of Folsom
Utility Commission
Action Minutes
December 4, 2012 6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners: Ryan, Oosterman, Cook, Davis, Rahlon

Absent: Commissioners: Standley, Bringgold

Staff Present: Todd Eising, Utilities Section Manager

Others Present: None

1. **MINUTES**

No Minutes to Approve

2. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

No Update

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

Utilities Department Director Report

Eising addressed the Commissioners regarding the state of the current Utility Director, stating that Rich Lorenz had been director until his retirement in August. In September, Ken Payne was appointed Utilities Director until he announced his retirement in November. He will be retiring from the City within the week. City Manager requested that Eising inform the Commission of the changes within the department.

City Manager designated Solid Waste to come under Public Works Department, with David Miller as director of Community Development/Public Works. The remaining divisions were renamed to Environmental and Water Resources, which oversee Water, Wastewater and Stormwater. The only difference the Utility Commission will note is a change of personnel; the Commission's responsibilities will remain the same. David Miller or someone from his staff may come before the Commission to give them updates regarding Solid Waste. City Manager will be announcing his plans regarding finding a replacement for Mr. Payne at some point in the near future.

Chairman Ryan asked if there would be someone other than Eising who would be attending the Utility Commission meetings in the future and Eising replied that Marcus Yasutake has come before.

Chairman Ryan inquired as to when the City Manager will announce his plan after Ken's departure and the restructuring of the department. Eising stated he believed it would be sometime after next Friday, which is to be Mr. Payne's last day with the City. He went on to say that he would advise the Commission members via e-mail as soon as the changes have been announced.

b. Council/Commissioner Appointments

Eising thanked Mr. Oosterman for his four years of service on the Commission, as tonight will be the last meeting he will be on the Commission. Eising stated he had met with both the City Manager and Mr. Payne, who requested Mr. Eising pass along their thanks to Mr. Oosterman, as well. Chairman Ryan also stated his appreciation for Mr. Oosterman's contributions over the last four years. Mr. Oosterman stated that he felt his background was helpful in serving on the Commission.

Eising went on to state that it is his understanding that Mr. Standley will not continue on the Commission and will verify with City Clerk. There will be two vacant seats that will need to be filled.

Cook stated that he had already notified Andy Morin and City Clerk's office that he will not be serving another term with the Utility Commission. Eising thanked Mr. Cook for his service and stated he was unaware of his plans to step down.

c. Utility Commission Schedule

Eising advised that in the month of February, the Commission will cast their votes for Chair and Vice Chair positions. Chair Ryan discussed the need to meet monthly or to meet when items are needed to be brought to the attention of the Commission. After a brief discussion of what significant issues may be upcoming, Eising requested input from the Commission regarding September/October will be when the first water bill for summer service will be sent out to the residents; at this time, the Commission may need to meet to discuss the metered billing. Davis suggested that Eising may update the Commission as to the Delta Conservation Plan in January to decide if it is of any significance to the City.

Oosterman brought up the fact that Folsom has a lot of commissions and there have been some comments regarding staff time involved in holding the meetings. He suggests that the Commission hold meetings only when necessary. In these days where staff numbers are being cut, it is more difficult to bring materials to the various commissions.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Utilities Budget Update

i. Transfers

Eising informed the Commission of the budget process in anticipation of the preliminary budget being available for review as early as January or February. The current budget process is going

very well and there are some substantial projects coming up in the next fiscal year. Eising advised the Commission that he would be able to bring information regarding transfers at the upcoming meeting in February of next year.

Ryan would like to have a meeting in the summer months to check in and see how the water meter rates and usage is progressing. Eising felt that in September the majority of calls will start coming in, as the increased water usage of the summer months will not be reflected until September.

b. Utilities Reports

i. Wastewater/Sewer Update

a. RWQCB Audit

Eising informed the Commission that about 3 months ago, the City received a letter from the State Regional Board requesting the City complete their questionnaire, which is the precursor to an audit. After completing the lengthy questionnaire, the State Board came out for a surprise audit. They interviewed field staff, looked at specific items and went through our standard operating procedures. The State Board praised the quality of the City's wastewater personnel, their knowledge of the system and the implementation of the sanitary sewer management plan. A few areas of concern they cited included the grease program; the inspector who was in charge of the grease program left employment with the City and at the time of the audit, there was no inspector tasked specifically to inspect restaurants.

Eising stated that with the increased rainfall from the latest storm, sewer crews were out on the weekend, proactively checking levels and making sure there would be no potential spills.

Oosterman asked how the rainfall impacted the storm drains and sewer lines, in regards to flooding.

Eising stated there was some street flooding, but nothing substantial, in reference to the sewer lines. Blue Ravine & Sibley had some flooding. There is also a spot under the pedestrian bridge on East Bidwell near Blue Ravine.

Russ wanted to make the Commission aware that the Regional Sanitation Board of Directors unanimously voted to reduce connection fees by \$3,000 per unit starting in January or February 2013. They will go from \$7,500 to \$4,500, which is significant. It doesn't impact Folsom necessarily, but the Sacramento area sewer district reduced their acreage fees from \$16,000 to \$13,000; which is about a \$200/unit impact. Davis went to the meeting with Councilmember Howell and stated that Kurt Prabhakar and his staff put on a fantastic presentation. A couple of board members challenged their methodology and Mr. Prabhakar was able to back it up. It will help significantly with new home starts.

ii. Water Update

Eising spoke to the Commission regarding our October meeting, when a special meeting was requested to review how we are doing with the metered rates. January is coming and we are ready; we have been doing the comparative billing for nearly a year now and haven't received a substantial amount of calls and there have been no significant issues out in the field.

Davis asked Eising if there is any kind of audit service available for the residents to educate them on their water usage. Eising explained that our Meter Division will go out and meet with the residents, review their usage and assist in locating leaks, if there are any present. In addition, we have our Water Conservation team will go out to evaluate water usage and assist the residents in identifying ways to save money and conserve water.

iii. Solid Waste Update:

No update for the Solid Waste division at this time.

Capital Improvement Projects:

Eising provided a map of the CIP's for the Commissioners. There will be a couple of projects that will be more expensive than usual. Our basins are broken down into smaller areas so we can tell where our larger I&I (Inflow & Infiltration) that is done with flow monitors at different locations. We will add more so we have better data and assess our system better than we currently do.

Sewer CIPs

Pipeline infrastructure projects – on Natoma, there are some pipelines that are going underneath buildings and have been there for 50 – 60 years. Over in the Ashland area there is the Hinkle Creek sewer line, which is in close proximity to the creek, want to relocate further away from the Creek. We will start design on that soon.

Oak Avenue Pump station located by Blue Ravine and Oak Avenue, we will be doing a wholesale redesign of that, making sure the wet wells are larger. During the storm, the pump station received a lot of wastewater. The City will spend 2 to 3 million dollars on these projects. Our fund balance is fine. There will quite a few sewer projects coming up this year.

Water CIPs

We have one major project and that is Willow Hill Raw Water Line Pipeline. When we did our Condition assessment of our system of leaks in our system, quite a few leaks were found in the pipeline. The City can save 1,100 square feet with this project. We are done assessing areas that are bad and are going to do a combination of actual slip lining and create a new interior lining to the pipe or combine that with spot repairs. We have a grant for about \$2 million from the State. The Federal government came out with a similar type of grant and we will go forward and see if we can get another million from the Federal government.

Kahlon requested additional information from Eising regarding Water CIP listed as number three on this list as Water Treatment Plant Sludge Drying project. Would like an explanation of what that project consists of and if the impacts of the project on the neighboring communities is being taken into consideration.

Similarly with the sludge project, our original plan was to dry it out ourselves, but some of the neighbors noticed, there was an odor to it, we put the water back on the sludge and are now taking a wholesale look at what we will do next. We have a consultant on board that that is an odor specialist, who has taken samples and had them analyzed. WTP crews have been touring other

treatment plants and looking into different technologies out there. For a professional firm to come in and take away the amount of sludge that we create in a year would be about a million dollars.

Kahlon requested clarification as to why we are storing the sludge on site. Eising answered that the sludge cannot be moved while in its wet state; it has to be dried either by sun, which is the least expensive process. The drying process creates the odor issue, as well as the drying issue, which is why we're looking at different options. The timeline for removal will be every 2 – 3 years. We need to get the site built, as the more time passes the more sludge builds up and the more the odor becomes a problem. There will be an update for the Commission on the process, but it will not be voted on by the Utility Commission.

Rahlon further stated that she would like to have an idea of what this project will look like, especially from the houses that back up to the Water Treatment Plant. Her backyard faces out onto a parking lot and would like to have some consideration of what the environment looks like to the residents who border the Water Treatment Plant.

Davis requested that an overview of the Master Plans for the sewer and water for the Folsom Plan Area be provided to the Commission.

Ryan wanted to pass along thanks to Ken Payne for his service to the City and the Commission as a whole.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted,

Michelle Parks, Administrative Assistant

Attachments: