



# Minutes

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC UTILITIES  
ADMINISTRATION

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**Salt Lake City  
Public Utilities Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
January 8, 2018**

The Public Utilities Advisory Committee meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. on January 8, 2018 at the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, 1530 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. Committee members present were Ted Boyer, Roger Player, Kent Moore, Ted Wilson, and Colleen Kuhn. Salt Lake City Public Utilities employees present were Laura Briefer, Kristeen Schumacher, Carly Castle, Brad Stewart, Holly Mullen, Marian Rice, Mark Christensen, and Kurt Spjute. Also in attendance were Jim Lewis, Consultant; Carole Straughn, League of Women Voters of Salt Lake; Nate Salazar and Elaine Navar, Salt Lake City Mayor's Office; Sam Owen and Lehua Weaver, Salt Lake City Council

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Chair Ted Boyer and Public Utilities Director Laura Briefer welcomed the attendees. Laura pointed out that there is no action required of the PUAC, but the purpose of the meeting was to brief the PUAC on the Rate Advisory recommendations and give the PUAC time to reflect prior to action.

## **Draft Rate Study Report Presentation – Rick Giardina from Raftellis and Laura Briefer**

Rick Giardina made a presentation on the outcome of the Public Utilities Rate Advisory Committee meetings. Rick distributed a hard copy of the presentation to all in attendance.

## **Discussion and Comments**

Ted Wilson pointed out that the Rate Study Committee may have been unsure about the mission of the study. Mr. Giardina assured Ted that he felt that the issue was addressed and the Committee was able to move forward.

Ted Wilson also asked if all of the cost assignment comes from meters (meaning the unit measurement of water). Mr. Giardina confirmed that this is true. Mr. Wilson asked whether we take into account the true cost of delivery to the meter. Rick responded that yes, this is what the class service accounts for. Water is allocated to the customer classes based on demand. Customers who have a higher consumption will have higher costs. Average water costs are based on volume.

Ted Boyer asked if a component of the structure is to address conservation, and whether the price increases help curb water use. Mr. Giardina responded that there is a difference between essential and discretionary use. The higher tiers are used to address higher discretionary usage.

Ted Wilson mentioned the Northwest Quadrant and the new infrastructure for that area. The residents and commercial owners will be paying for the new infrastructure and are currently in the process of evaluating costs. Mr. Wilson wants to make sure that the state doesn't take advantage of the system. Public Utilities has entered into an agreement with the DFCM to make sure that this doesn't happen.

Kurt Spjute added that the new system allows the resident to have some chance to set their own tier structure based on water use that is fair and consistent.

Colleen Kuhn asked Mr. Giardina to confirm that there is a set watering allowance that each resident will get. Carole Straughn mentioned that there is some evidence that it takes up to 18 cfs to keep trees alive in the summer. She feels that there needs to be more evidence as to what is required to actually keep trees alive in Salt Lake. Mr. Wilson feels that the "urban forest" is endangered and that we need to find ways to compel residents to keep their trees alive.

Siobhan Locke spoke about the broad membership of the Rate Advisory Committee. She noted that this study had the opportunity to provide opinions from representative from diverse interests.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.**  
**Next meeting will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

