



Minutes

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC UTILITIES
ADMINISTRATION

**Salt Lake City
Public Utilities Advisory Committee
Minutes
August 23, 2018**

The Public Utilities Advisory Committee meeting was held at 7:30 a.m. on August 23, 2018 at the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, 1530 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. Committee members present were Colleen Kuhn, Ted Boyer, Roger Player, Sydney Foncesbeck, and Ted Wilson. Salt Lake City Public Utilities employees present were Laura Briefer, Jesse Stewart, Kurt Spjute, Mark Christensen, Jason Brown, Stephanie Duer, Marian Rice, Jason Draper, Holly Mullen, and Janine Calfo. Also in attendance were Rusty Vetter, Salt Lake City Attorney's Office; Trevor Lindley, Brown and Caldwell; Mike DeVries, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy; Will Peterson, AECOM; Sam Owen, Salt Lake City Council Office; Jeff Silvestrini, Mayor of the City of Millcreek; Mike Wilson, CRS Engineers; and Karen Nichols, HDR.

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Chair Colleen Kuhn and Public Utilities Director Laura Briefer welcomed the attendees. Ms. Briefer announced that Kurt Spjute will be retiring on September 14th and thanked him for his service to the Department. Kurt has worked for the Department for 24 years. The Public Utilities Company Picnic will be held on September 12th.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (May 26, 2018)

Mr. Wilson moved and Mr. Player seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2018 meeting. All members present voted aye.

Financial Report – Kurt Spjute, Finance Administrator

Kurt Spjute, Public Utilities Finance Administrator, presented the Public Utilities' financial report. A copy of Mr. Spjute's presentation is attached.

Mr. Spjute spoke about pending financial issues that the Department will face regarding rate issues and future bonding, campus and facilities needs, implementing the new rate structures, budget process for FY 2020, internal controls, street lighting, coordination of prison construction, and the new Finance Administrator position.

All sales for the fiscal year are higher than budgeted. Delinquencies over 90 days is less than half a percent.

Water usage is very close to last year. Compared to 2000, annual usage is 19 percent lower overall. Ms. Briefer mentioned that measurements were taken at the peak water usage. This indicates that

people are conserving enough that the peak isn't getting as high. The tier pricing has helped toward conservation as well.

Status and Discussion of Water-Related 2018 Interim Legislative Committees – Laura Briefer, Director

Laura Briefer discussed what has occurred over the interim legislative season. A copy of the material provided is attached.

It has been a busy summer on the interim legislative calendar. Four subcommittees were appointed by the legislature to provide recommendations in October regarding water-related legislation that was proposed but not passed during the 2018 Legislative Session. The subcommittees have been meeting every week since May to discuss the issues.

The following are the issues discussed during the summer interim period:

- a. Extraterritorial Jurisdiction – Gives the municipalities the authority to maintain and protect waterworks from injury and pollution throughout the entire watershed. The original bill that was introduced during the 2018 Legislative Session attempted to remove these protections and did not pass. The key goal have been set for each meeting has been to protect public health. Ms. Briefer is meeting with the counties to discuss any possible amendments to current ordinances.
- b. Surplus Water and Constitutional Amendment –Article 11 Section 6 of the State Constitution prohibits cities from divesting of water works and leasing water supplies. Representative Stratton introduced a proposal for a constitutional change during the 2018 Legislative Session, and Representative Coleman proposed legislation that would place additional requirements on cities providing water outside their boundaries
- c. Private Property Subcommittee—Exploring ways for the State to leverage funds for purchasing land.
- d. Ms. Briefer and other city representatives have been attending each interim Subcommittee meeting and participating in the discussion. Recommendations from the subcommittees are expected to be presented in October. Mr. Briefer summarized the status of the discussions for each subcommittee, as well as their possible recommendations.

Capital Projects Update – Jason Brown, Chief Engineer

Jason Brown, Public Utilities Chief Engineer, presented an update on capital projects. A copy of Mr. Brown's presentation and a flyer is attached.



There are over 200 projects planned for the new fiscal year. Some of the major sewer projects are in the Northwest Quadrant, and at 500 South and 700 South. 1300 East road reconstruction and a Street Light Master Plan update are also major projects that are planned.

Ms. Foncesbeck asked where the Northwest Quadrant will be getting water. Mr. Brown responded that Salt Lake City will be providing the water. Mr. Wilson mentioned that a State Board has been formed; what happens when the Board doesn't like what has been proposed? Ms. Briefer responded that she plans to coordinate with the Inland Port Authority Board to ensure ongoing conversations. Mr. Wilson feels that double leadership is not productive.

The Street Light Master Plan will include public engagement to include the City Council.

The new Water Reclamation Facility has selected AECOM as the design engineer. Advertisement for a contractor is out for bid.

Public Utilities engineering will be publishing a quarterly report that will be available on the Performance Portal Link. Ms. Briefer asked the PUAC if there were any suggestions regarding reporting requests for the quarterly report.

Other Business

Ms. Foncesbeck asked about Rotary Park and the water quality. There is signage that is conflicting about open and closed areas. Ms. Marian Rice, Water Quality Manager, indicated that there are some areas of the creek that are impaired due to low water. However, Ms. Rice feels that dogs should not get sick from the creek water. There was some discussion in the past of putting a sewer line in the area,.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.
Next meeting will be held on September 27th at 7:30 a.m.**