



Minutes

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC UTILITIES
ADMINISTRATION

**Salt Lake City
Public Utilities Advisory Committee
Minutes
October 25, 2018**

The Public Utilities Advisory Committee meeting was held at 7:30 a.m. on October 25, 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, Tom Godfrey, and Ted Wilson. Salt Lake City Public Utilities employees present were Laura Briefer, Jesse Stewart, Bernard Mo, Blayde McIntire, Mark Christensen, Jason Brown, Holly Mullen, Marian Rice, and Janine Calfo. Also in attendance were Rusty Vetter and Lynn Pace, Salt Lake City Attorney's Office; Nathan Zaugg, Carollo Engineering; Trevor Lindley, Brown and Caldwell; Howard Pacheko; Will Peterson, AECOM; Mike DeVries, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy; Sam Owens and Nathan Salazar, Salt Lake City Council Office; Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, City of Millcreek; and Keith Larson and Mike Collins, Bowen Collins.

Welcome and Introductions

Committee Vice-Chair Ted Wilson and Public Utilities Director Laura Briefer welcomed the attendees. Mr. Wilson also introduced Tom Godfrey as the new member of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (September 27, 2018)

Approval of the minutes was moved to be considered in the December meeting.

Financial Report – Mark Christensen, Finance Manager

Mark Christensen presented the Public Utilities financial report. A copy of Mr. Christensen's presentation is attached.

Overview of New Website – Holly Mullen, Communications and Public Engagement Manager

Holly Mullen showed the Committee how to navigate the new Department of Public Utilities website at <https://www.slc.gov/utilities/>.

Ms. Mullen reported that the website is very user friendly. Customers can pay their water bill and Hive Pass on line for no additional fee. There is a section of the website that is dedicated to news and updates. This information will be updated regularly. Ms. Mullen will also be providing this information on other social media sites.

There is a link on the website for each of the divisions with the Department. There is also a link for public record requests (pursuant to the Government Records and Management Act) requests.

Mr. Wilson asked if there was any information on the website with regard to emergencies. Ms. Briefer indicated that the Department works with Salt Lake City's Emergency Management Division to provide information on a dedicated website during emergencies. There is also a phone number for reporting water emergencies. Ms. Mullen coordinates with the Emergency Management Division to prepare website links that are dedicated to specific emergencies, as the situations arise.

**Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Process; Selection of PUAC Budget Committee -
Laura Briefer, Director**

Laura Briefer distributed a one page handout that outlined the Budget Process. A copy of that handout is attached.

A subcommittee of three Committee members will review the proposed budget prior to recommendation to the Mayor. The subcommittee typically begins convening in January and meets through the last week of March. Public Utilities is usually one of the first Departments to present to the City Council in April.

Ms. Briefer will speak with the Committee members about volunteering for the Budget Subcommittee.

**Legislative Update on Water Issues –
Lynn Pace, Senior Advisor for Government Relations, Salt Lake City Mayor's Office
Laura Briefer, Director**

Ms. Briefer introduced Mr. Pace from the Mayor's Office. He reported that it has been a very busy interim season for the Department, specifically regarding four bills from the 2018 Legislative Session. Four subcommittees were tasked with providing recommendations on these legislative policy issues by the end of September. Mr. Pace is presenting the PUAC what was recommended. A copy of the handout distributed by Mr. Pace is attached.

The first bill is a proposed Constitutional Amendment to clarify that cities may provide surplus water outside of their municipal boundaries (either by service area or by contract). This would essentially formalize existing practices. If this Constitutional Amendment passes, the City Council will need to adopt an ordinance to define a Designated Water Service Area.

The second bill (Water Supply and Surplus Water Amendments) focuses on reconciling language in Utah Code with the proposed Constitutional Amendment and various existing municipal water management practices . This bill outlines a process by which a municipality may provide water to



customers outside its political boundaries; states that a municipality may not sell its waterworks, in whole or in part, except as provided in statute; and creates reporting requirements.

Mr. Wilson asked if a new board would need to be created as a result of this legislation. Mr. Pace explained that the existing PUAC would be sufficient to fulfill the requirements of the legislation, unless the language in the recommended legislation changes. Other cities may not already have such an advisory body in place, and would need to make changes.

The third bill (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Amendments) preserves the authority of cities to protect their watersheds outside their municipal boundaries. That authority extends 300 feet from either side of the stream; and from from ridgeline to ridgeline for cities of the First Class. However, in cases where a city wishes to exert its jurisdiction outside its county of origin, the city would need to acquire a written agreement with those entities where the jurisdiction would be extended. Mr. Godfrey asked if the Department of Health has been involved and Ms. Briefer indicated that they had.

The fourth bill addresses identifying funds to buy land from property owners who want to sell their property in the Central Wasatch Canyons. If the bill passes, Salt Lake City may be encouraged to contribute funds to the help leverage any potential state funding that would be allocated as a result of the interim recommendations. The Department does have a restricted watershed fund that is used to purchase and conserve land within the watersheds it manages.

Other Business

Mr. Wilson asked Laura to touch on the Roadless Rule process initiated by the State. The Roadless Rule is a 2001 National Forest Service rule that directs management of federal lands within designated Inventory Roadless Areas within the U.S. National Forest. The goal is to manage the land as primitive. A handful of states have petitioned the National Forest Service to change the designations within their states. Each County in Utah has been asked whether there should be changes made to the Roadless Rule in Utah. Salt Lake City is providing information to the County for this process, and the City's recommendation is to not change the current designations within the watersheds the Department manages.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.
Next meeting will be held on December 6th at 12:00 noon
at the Tracy Aviary**

