

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – April 17, 2025

1. Call to Order. Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Ted Jones at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Co-Chair Ted Jones, Co-Chair Charlie Averill, Wanda Schulze, Andy Maron, Sheina Hughes (Zoom), Martin Pastuha (Zoom and in-person), Svend Brandt-Ericksen.

Also Present: Chris Wierzbicki, Public Works Director

2. Agenda. Agenda approved and no conflicts of interest reported.

3. Council Liaison Report. None

4. a) Minutes of March 20, 2025 were postponed.

b) Rate Study. Chris Gonzales, consultant from FCS, participated by Zoom.

Wierzbicki advised that the rate study analysis has been updated because of three factors: (1) financial results from 2024 have now been completed and will be used instead of end-of-year estimates; (2) worldwide tariff uncertainties have begun to impact projected interest rates for the planned City bond issue; and (3) projected utility connection growth rates should be reduced as recent connections have been lower than expected.

This update has resulted in somewhat higher increases in the water and sewer rates and SPF's than were developed in earlier versions of the consultant's analysis. Additionally, several planned capital projects were pushed back a year or two.

The consultant recommended that the rates be reviewed in three years to see if they should be modified based on economic events in the ensuing years (such as bond interest rates, impacts from tariffs on construction activities, etc.).

The plan is for the Committee to receive and review an update of the consultant's analysis, to review and submit proposed revisions to the Committee's draft Memorandum to the City Council, and then discuss and hopefully adopt a revised final Memorandum at a special Committee Zoom meeting to be schedule in early May.

c) Comprehensive Plan. The Committee briefly talked about the process for finalizing the previously-discussed draft Utilities Element. Director Wierzbicki will be forwarding an updated version for consideration at a meeting in May.

d) Public Works Update. Director Wierzbicki reported that it was not yet clear of proposed tariffs would impact the bids on the planned Winslow Water Tank Off-site Improvements project

. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Co-Chair