

## UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 20, 2025

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

**Members Present:** Wanda Schulze, Andy Maron, Charlie Averill, Sheina Hughes, Svend Brandt-Erichsen, Martin Pastucha, Jon Quitsland

**Also Present:** Chris Wierzbicki, Public Works Director; DeWayne Pitts, Finance Director; Chris Gonzalez, FCS Group

**Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:** None

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** January meeting minutes were approved

### Council Liaison Report

Jon reported that the Council approved the Stormwater Management System Plan. The Council has been discussing information coming out of the Groundwater Management Plan work and received a presentation on wastewater reuse options. Work is continuing on the DEIS, Winslow Sub Area Plan, and Bainbridge Comprehensive Plan.

### Final Rate Study Presentation

Chris Gonzalez went over the final rate presentation study. The comments previously requested by the UAC had been incorporated. These included showing rates for our neighboring Kitsap County communities, and delaying the rate increases until 2026. The committee had no remaining comments on the final rate proposal. The next step is to draft a memo to the City Council recommending adoption of the proposed rates. Andy Meron shared a draft based on the one used for the last round of rate increases. Chris G and Chris W will add pertinent info for UAC review at the next meeting. Goal is to present to Council on April 15.

### Utility Element Comp Plan Review

Wanda Schulze went over proposed edits to the Electrical section of the Utility Element. The edits are mainly intended to clarify policies to reflect how COBI can influence PSE actions to ensure our comp plan goals are being met. New policies were drafted for equity reviews, infrastructure resiliency reviews, and ensuring adequate public outreach is done by PSE. The policy statement U14.9 which suggests COBI will “obtain” or “invest” in “green” electricity was slated for deletion as it seemed confusing considering COBI is not an electricity provider.

The schedule for completing the Comp Plan is very tight since the DEIS is still being considered by the Planning Commission and Council. The goal remains to complete the Comp Plan in June which means we need to have the Utility Element done in May. That gives the UAC only two more meetings to finish our edits. It may be necessary to schedule some additional meetings to support this schedule. For now, we will plan to dedicate our March meeting to Comp Plan review.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

