



"Providing Life's Essential Services"

Utility Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights – November 15, 2007

Committee Members present:

John McCubbin, Michael Napoli, Art Reker, Sharon Schilling, Allan Schroeder, Sarah Velasquez

Committee Member absent:

Deena Monteiro

Staff present:

Lon Martin, John Watkins, Cindy Williams, Rene Ramirez, May Albiani, Connie Hamlin, Sarah Rubin

1. Introductions

The Utility Advisory Committee held its first meeting facilitated by Sarah Rubin beginning with self-introductions.

Lon Martin, Assistant Director, covered procedural aspects and the meeting materials.

The following materials were distributed to the Committee members:

- a. Committee Contact Information
- b. City of Fresno Website Illustration of Utility Advisory Committee Page
- c. Sample of Action Request Report
- d. Mission and Guidelines
- e. Meeting Calendar/Workplan
- f. Final Report from last year's Fresno Utility Commission

2. Charter, Mission and Guidelines

- a. Lon Martin, reviewed meeting packet item 4 – Mission and Guidelines.
- b. The Mission and Guidelines states the Committee will submit a Committee Report in February of each year. Because the Committee started later than planned, the Committee will be submitting a Committee Report in May.
- c. Key components of the Mission and Guidelines were reviewed by the group.

3. Preliminary Calendar

- a. Packet Item 5 – Meeting Calendar/Workplan was reviewed.
- b. Committee members were asked to contact May Albiani and advise her which tours they plan to attend.
- c. Committee member Sharon Schilling recommended twice a month meetings.
- d. Lon Martin stated the last commission did the "heavy lifting" in regards to rate models.
- e. This committee will review the planned rate increases and recommend any changes.
- f. Lon stated there may be a need for Committee members to be prepared to review information provided during the monthly meetings.
- g. If the Committee wishes to adjust the proposed schedule, it can do so.

- h. Facilitator Sarah Rubin advised at the next meeting she would be seeking a volunteer to become the Committee's Chair for the group.
- i. Committee member Sharon Schilling volunteered to be Chair based on her experience from serving on the last Utility Commission.
- j. Sarah Rubin stated she will check in with the group at the next meeting to see if there is any desire by others to Chair. The group will decide on a Chair at the next meeting since they take place during the dinner hour. Sarah Rubin inquired if there was an interest in food being provided during the meetings. The consensus of the group was to have sandwiches.

4. History and Recommendations of the 2006 Utility Commission

- a. A PowerPoint presentation was viewed providing a summary of what took place during the previous Utility Commission including the adopted 5-Year Plan for rate increases, rate comparisons, Proposition 218 Process etc.
- b. Street tree trimming inquiries about the funds from CSD to Public Works were discussed.
- c. An Action Request was made by Sharon Schilling for the 5-year rate plan comparison with the cities highlighted on slide 16.
- d. Lon Martin reported to the recommendation for a change in governance to a Municipal Water District was before City Council for action last week; however, no action was taken.

5. Public Comments

- a. Roundtable Wrap-Up:
- b. Alan Schoeder – look forward to the tours.
- c. Art Reker - Customer satisfaction information.
- d. Sarah Velasquez – desire to learn more about last year's report.
- e. John McCubbin – 2025 Plan tie-in will be of interest.
- f. Michael Napoli – growth rate tie-in will be of interest.
- g. Lon Martin – citywide customer survey and benchmarks can be gathered
- h. Sharon Schilling would like to have more input on the Municipal Water District
- i. Sharon Schilling –Action Request: The customer service aspect; she stated she is for the customer and wants to represent them.

Meeting Adjourned.