



CITY OF RIALTO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION
MAY 17, 2022 - 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

The Regular meeting of the Utilities Commission of the City of Rialto was held in the Civic Center Council Chambers located at 150 S. Palm Avenue, Rialto, California 92376, on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

o0o

This meeting was in accordance with the provision of the **Government Code §54956** of the State of California.

o0o

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

o0o

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken by Senior Administrator Analyst, Nicole Hemmans.

Present:

Vice-Chairperson June Hayes
Commissioner Richard "Kim" Chitwood
Commissioner Kevin C. Kobbe
Commissioner James M. Shields

Absent:

Chairperson Barbara Zrelak-Rickman

City staff present:

Tom Crowley, Nicole Hemmans, and Amy Crow

Also present:

David Terry, Robert Lee, Chandrasekar Venkatraman (CV), Kim Aplon, and Marlon Brosco.

o0o

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairperson June Hayes led the pledge of allegiance.

o0o

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/
INVOCATION**

Tom led the Invocation.

o0o

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-
Regular Meeting of **April 19,**
2022

- ◆ Approval of minutes were not mentioned during the meeting

o0o

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked if there were any oral communications from the audience of items not on the agenda. There was none.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

o0o

ITEM 1- Monthly Activity Report for City of Rialto Waste Management Services

- ◆ Amy went over the Monthly Waste Management Report for the month of April.
- ◆ Amy talked about the latest waste generation report from Burrtec. She said the report includes data from January 2022 – March 2022.
- ◆ Amy provided information about the Community Garden Open House.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked Amy about the Scavenging Report. She said they didn't have a monthly meeting. Therefore, she didn't have anything to report. However, the problem is always there. Amy said people have gotten wise, they scavenge during nighttime hours; it is hard for the reporting site to report them. Also, Code Enforcement has been reporting those activities but only during business hours. For after hours, it should be reported to nonemergency dispatch. Additionally, the scavenging flyers included in the Rialto quarterly magazine provide information on how to report scavenging activities.

Action

- ◆ None

o0o

ITEM 2- Recommend the City Council/Rialto Utility Authority Conduct a Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment Related to the Placement of Sewer Service Charges on the County Property Tax Roll for Delinquent Accounts. **(ACTION)**

- ◆ Tom provided information on how they are planning to process delinquent payments for sewer customers from areas, Fontana and West Valley. He said, Public Hearing will be on June 14.
- ◆ Tom said, they anticipate \$970, 000 to go to the Tax Roll; it's about 1,650 customers. Last year, they put in Tax Roll around 90%, meaning that we recovered those charges. He said, they have a deadline with the consultant to go to the County and then get it on to the Tax Roll.
- ◆ Tom recommended to the Utilities Commission to move this forward to the City Council.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes commented about a police purchase agreement she received from her property in Pennsylvania.

Action

- ◆ Commissioner Kevin Kobbe made motion.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood seconded.
- ◆ All in favor.
- ◆ Motion passed.

o0o

ITEM 3- Recommend the City Council/Rialto Utility Authority Board Approve the Final

- ◆ CV went over the process of the Activation of Digester No. 1 and the Rehabilitation of Digester No. 2. He said, there is no single general

Construction Work Authorization to Rialto Water Services in the amount of \$1,563,953 for the Activation of Digester No. 1 and the Rehabilitation of Digester No. 2.
(ACTION)

contract, they will subcontract portions of the work. He added, the work is anticipated to take around 6 months.

- ◆ CV explained the holder tank storage process.
- ◆ CV said it's recommendable to have both Digesters operate simultaneously. He said one of the advantages is that incase there is an issue with one of the Digesters, they can change the position of the valve.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked CV if he's not putting on a dystor lid on top of Digester No. 1. CV said it's been held inflated by water in Digester No. 1, they have fans to maintaining it inflated to avoid collapsing.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked CV if he is repairing Digester No. 2. CV said, no, it has to be replaced. .
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes said, one of the main issues they had with dystor was that Veolia was hesitant about tightening the small bolts around the dystor. She asked CV if we have mastered that process.
- ◆ Marlon Brosco answered Vice-Chairperson Hayes. He said, Digester No. 1 was put on in 2016, they will have the same approach when Digester No. 2 lid gets replace. He added, the job was done by DN-tanks. They haven't had any leak issues with Digester No. 1; it gets checked annually for leaks.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes recalled when dystor2 was put in, they had to tighten the bolts on a regular basis. Brosco told Vice-Chairperson Hayes at this time, their staff is capable to maintain it effectively, except when the Santa Ana winds blow hard.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood asked for clarification on the legislative text, it differs from what the agenda says. Tom said, he will correct that typo.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked CV if they will be able to switch from one Digester to the other as need it. CV said the recommendation from their technical team is to maintain both digesters parallel online; he explained the reasons.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked Brosco for the amount of sludge used per day. Brosco said, when we thicken, they feed the digester around 5.5% solids. He said, between sludge and thicken, they feed the digester 70,000 gallons a day. Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked about the 75% of capacity. Brosco said, the 75% reduction in the total sludge.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson talked about the previous sludge processing in the past using both digesters. Tom said, Vice-Chairperson Hayes might be describing the Plan Capacity before Plan 5, which was 75% of capacity of 1-4 at flow rate. Vice-Chairperson agreed with Tom. Tom said our flow rate right now is 7.5 gb.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson said, we don't have to do the tape down if we do maintenance on a regular basis.

Action

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes made motion.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe seconded.
- ◆ All in favor.

- ◆ Motion passed.

o0o

ITEM 4- Recommend City Council/Rialto Utility Authority Authorize the Final Payout for the Completed Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Water and Wastewater Operating Repair and Replacement Projects Using Available Rialto Utility Authority Funds and Approve the Anticipated Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Water and Wastewater Operating Repair and Replacement Projects and Expenditures.

(ACTION)

- ◆ Marlon went over the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for water and wastewater projects.
- ◆ Marlon talked about the Project #-2021-23 and explained the process of cleaning the digester.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked Marlon to explain the total amounts in table 2; the final amount is larger than the originally planned. Tom said, he will correct the amounts.

Action

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes made motion.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe seconded.
- ◆ All in favor.
- ◆ Motion passed.

o0o

ITEM 5- Veolia's Operation and Maintenance Monthly Report **(RECEIVE AND FILE)**

- ◆ Kim went over the Maintenance Monthly Report for March.
- ◆ Kim said the treatment plant exceeded the 450CT.
- ◆ Kim said there are large amounts of pesticides and nickel tested.
- ◆ CV went over the updates for projects: Sycamore, Riverside Center, Rialto Microgrid, and Walmart co-lines.
- ◆ Robert Lee went over the Customers Service Report for the month of March.
- ◆ Robert Lee said delinquent accounts are very similar to the ones before COVID-19.
- ◆ Robert Lee mentioned the City recently applied for Wastewater Program for \$500,000; they should get the check within the next 3-5 weeks. Robert said once they get the check, they will apply that credit to the accounts.
- ◆ Rolf Ohlemutz made an announcement regarding the low-income household Water Assistance Program as part of the Customer Service Report.
- ◆ Andrew Colman went over the water operations portion for March Report.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked Kim to explain the meaning of 450CT. Kim said 450CT is the metal contact time they need to have for affluent disinfection, recommended by Title 22.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked Kim if we know why we have more nickel and pesticides. Kim said, they have contacted the pretreatment to check throughout the city to find out where the excess of nickel is coming from.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked if they are going to build between the new Walmart. Tom said yes, that is part of the Rialto's Phase-2 Project.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked questions regarding the bell press. She wants to know why we are waiting for 2023 to address this problem. She

wants to know if we decided what kind of bell press we're putting in. CV said, he doesn't know yet. She asked if we are going to use centrifuge. CV said not 100%. She also asked when the bell presses will be fixed. CV said they have to finalized other projects, and then, they will provide an update on that.

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked CV if he will be ready to make the recommendation to the Subcommittee by this month. CV said not this month.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked Rolf if the program covers the UUT. He doesn't know; Tom said they will look into that. She asked if the people who qualify for this program will also qualify to be exempted from UUT tax. Robert Lee said yes.
- ◆ Robert commented about providing a list to the City for customers who qualify for the program so the City can reach out to them, and have them apply for the UUT exempt. He added, they will track those accounts and let the City know about it.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood asked Andrew for the exact location for Pepper's reconstruction project. Andrew said the coverage area is from Foothill area above the Santa Fe tracks.

Action

- ◆ **None**

o0o

OLD BUSINESS **Item 1 – To Do List**

- ◆ Tom said no previous or future items planned for next month.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes announced she will make a presentation on "Water Supply and Drought" next month.

o0o

Item 2- Previous Discussion Update

- ◆ None

o0o

UTILITIES MANAGER'S UPDATES

- ◆ Tom talked about the grant application for Reclamation AMI project.
- ◆ Tom said, he received a notice, they will receive \$2,000,000 through the bill portion of their funding.

o0o

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes talked about the press report she sent to Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem regarding reducing the water usage.
- ◆ Tom talked about information included in the City Manager's Report regarding Metropolitan's press release and West Valley's service area.

o0o

ADJOURNMENT

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes made a motion to adjourn.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood seconded the motion.
- ◆ Motion Carried.
- ◆ Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.