



CITY OF RIALTO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION
February 20, 2024 - 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, February 20, 2024.

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

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CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

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ROLL CALL

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

Present:

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

Absent:

Chairperson Barbara Rickman

City staff present:

Toyasha Sebbag, Assistant to the City Manager
Amy Crow, Administrative Analyst
Nicole Hemmans, Senior Administrative Analyst

Also present:

Dave Giddens, Representative with Rain Bird
Robert Lee, Customer Service Manager – RWS/ Veolia
Marlon Brosco, Assistant General Manager – RWS/ Veolia
Stephanee Valencia, Operations Supervisor – RWS/ Veolia
Frank Garza, Chief Plant Operator – RWS/ Veolia
Vernon Perry, Asset Manager – RWS/ Veolia

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chairperson Hayes led the pledge of allegiance.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE/
INVOCATION**

Commissioner Chitwood led the invocation.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Regular Meeting of January 16, 2024

Mrs. Hemmans updated the Utilities Commission that the January 16, 2024, Minutes would be provided at a later date for approval.

Action

- ◆ No Action taken

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-Chairperson June Hayes asked if there were any oral communications from the audience of items not on the agenda.

- ◆ None

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NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM 1- Presentation on Rain Bird product.
(RECEIVE AND FILE)

Presentation on Rain Bird Water Metering Products provided by Dave Giddens.
(RECEIVE AND FILE)

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked if the Rain Bird device automatically shut-off when it detects rain?
 - Per Mr. Giddens, the device has a built-in weather feature that will automatically shut-off when rain is detected.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood inquired if the Rain Bird device was presented to the Parks & Community Services department?
 - Mr. Gidden advised that he has a meeting with Mike Springer next week to discuss how Rain Bird products can assist the parks with water conservation.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked does the device need to be reset if the internet is disconnected?
 - Per Mr. Giddens, if the internet turns off the device does not have to be reset because it has a built-in memory that keeps the settings even when disconnected from the internet.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked who does the initial set-up of the device?
 - Per Mr. Gidden, the device can be set up by the end user of the device, which can be the homeowner or contractor.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood asked what would be the cost to provide services to a single family residence (SFR) and the cost to provide services to a 5,000 sq. ft. park?
 - Approximately \$125/Single Family Residence
 - Approximately \$3,200 to \$4,500 for a park with 48 stations.

- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood asked what state is Rain Bird manufactured in?
 - There is a facility in Azusa, CA and the corporate headquarters is located in Tuscan, Arizona.
- ◆ Mr. Perry, asked if the device have a soil dampness sensor that will bypass the device if it detects the soil is too damp?
 - Per Mr. Giddens, the Rain Bird device comes with a built-in *kill-switch* that will not allow the controller to operate if it gets to a certain moisture level.
- ◆ Mr. Perry asked what frequency is the WIFI?
 - Per Mr. Giddens, 2.5GHz is preferred because of the distance, however, the 5.0GHz works great, but at a shorter distance.
- ◆ Mr. Perry asked what kind of cyber security is installed in the Rain Bird device?
 - Per Mr. Giddens, once the device is set up, it is only sending information into the device, not allowing it to go into the network. Strength tests are performed on the device to make sure the security feature is not broken.
- ◆ Mr. Perry asked is the Rain Bird device compatible with Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI)?
 - Per Mr. Giddens, Rain Bird is not compatible with AMI.

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ITEM 2- Monthly activity report
for City of Rialto Waste
Management Services
(RECEIVE AND FILE)

Mrs. Crow went over the Monthly Waste Management Report for the month of January 2024.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ None.

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ITEM 3- Veolia's Operations and
Maintenance Monthly Report
(RECEIVE AND FILE)

Receive and File the Monthly Operations Report from Veolia.

Questions & Comments

Q&A – Customer Service update provided by Mr. Lee:

- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked why does the eBill data fluctuate?
 - Per Mr. Lee, eBill data fluctuation is based on when the billing periods start in the month.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked does the Ambulance Tax fee collected and turned over to the City?

- Per Mr. Lee, the Ambulance Tax Fee revenue is provided to the City and reported to the City's Fire Department.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes requested a breakdown on how the Fire Department is utilizing the revenues received from the Ambulance Tax Fee.

Q&A – Capital Projects update provided by Mrs. Valencia:

- ◆ None.

Q&A – Water operation update provided by Mrs. Valencia:

- ◆ What is being tested on the fire hydrant when it is being inspected?
 - Per Stephanie Valencia, they are probably doing a fire-flow test.

Q&A – Wastewater update provided by Mr. Brosco:

- ◆ Mr. Brosco introduced Mr. Frank Garza, Chief Plant Operator for RWS/Veolia.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood asked when a manhole inspection is performed, what are you looking for?
 - Mr. Brosco advised they are looking structural integrity of the manhole.

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OLD BUSINESS

Item 1 – Previous Discussion

- ◆ None.

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Item 2 – To Do List

Future items:

- ◆ None

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**UTILITIES MANAGER'S
UPDATES**

- ◆ None.

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COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

- ◆ San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District is celebrating its 70th Anniversary on February 22, 2024.
- ◆ Invitation: Sunrise Ranch Master Plan Public Workshop 3
Ayres Hotel

1495 W. Renaissance PKWY
Rialto, CA 92376
Date/Time: March 6, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

- ◆ Commissioner Shields made a motion to adjourn.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe seconded the motion.
- ◆ Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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