



CITY OF RIALTO
REGULAR MEETING OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION
August 16, 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, August 16, 2022.

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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

Chairperson Rickman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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ROLL CALL

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

Present:

Chairperson Barbara Zrelak-Rickman

Vice-Chairperson June Hayes

Commissioner Richard "Kim" Chitwood

Commissioner Kevin C. Kobbe

Commissioner James M. Shields

Absent:

Amy Crow

City staff present:

Tom Crowley and Nicole Hemmans

Also present:

David Terry, Robert Lee, Chandrasekar Venkatraman (CV), Marlon Brosco, Michael Newton, and Dan Jenkins

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Barbara Rickman led the pledge of allegiance.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE/
INVOCATION**

Tom led the Invocation.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES-
Regular Meeting of **May 17,**
2022

- ◆ Chairperson Barbara Rickman asked if there were any comments pertaining to the meeting minutes from May 17, 2022. There was none.

Action

- ◆ June Hays made motion.
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood seconded.

- ◆ All in favor.
- ◆ Motion passed.

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Chairperson Barbara Rickman asked if there were any oral communications from the audience of items not on the agenda.
- ◆ June Hayes introduced Dan Jenkins, newly appointed board member from West Valley.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

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ITEM 1- Presentation by June Hayes with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Director
(RECEIVE AND FILE)

- ◆ June Hays asked to be identified as Director of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water when she is presenting on behalf of SBVMWD.
- ◆ PowerPoint presentation on "The Drought and Our Water Supply", presented by Director of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, June Hayes.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ June commented that we need to be aware of the past and future. Despite the fact that we've got water, we still need to obey the state. The state says that we should be in stage 2 drought regulation.
- ◆ June asked Tom what does stage 2 mean. Per Tom, stage 2 means voluntary 20% reductions. Watering only 4 times a week with modified hours in the early morning and at night with no watering during the day.
- ◆ Tom provided information on the current rebate programs for water conservation such as rebates for turf replacement and high efficiency washer machines.
- ◆ Is the East Valley functioning now? It's not functioning yet. They are having some problems with Edison. They had their ribbon cutting a couple of weeks ago and were giving tours. They plan on opening in a couple of months.
- ◆ The East Valley general manager, John Mura, has retired effective 8/1/22.

Action

- ◆ None

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ITEM 2- Monthly activity report for City of Rialto Waste Management Services.

- ◆ Tom went over the Monthly Waste Management Report for the month of July & August, in the absence of Amy Crow.
- ◆ Statistics on household wastes during the month of July:
344 residents served
420 gallons of used motor oil,
10 pallets of paint,
20 drums of misc. poisons and other toxic liquids,
14 barrels of sharps used by residents for their home healthcare and medical needs.

- ◆ During the month of August, the Household Hazardous Waste site was open on the 12th and 13th and will be open again on August 26th and 27th from 8 am until 12 noon.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ None

Action

- ◆ None

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ITEM 3- Presenting the 2022 Public Health Goals Report (PHGs) pursuant to the Calderon-Sher Drinking Water Act of 1996, and the 2021 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on Drinking Water.
(RECEIVE AND FILE)

- ◆ PowerPoint presentation presented by Nicole Hemmans regarding the 2022 Public Health Goals report and the 2021 Consumer Confidence Report on Drinking Water.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Committee member asked what would make the arsenic level drop?
- ◆ Tom stated Arsenic is a natural occurring element. City Well 2 basin is very shallow and is much closer to bedrock. David Terry stated arsenic levels may be lowering due to the drought. During heavy precipitation water flushed arsenic down into the aquifer.
- ◆ June asked Tom if he experienced arsenic when he worked for West Valley and if it were at the levels we are seeing. Tom advised that he dealt with higher levels when he was at West Valley. They had to treat the arsenic by putting chemicals in the water that precipitates the arsenic out of the water and turns it into a non-hazardous material that can be hauled off site.

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ITEM 4- Veolia's Operation and Maintenance Monthly Reports – June, July, and August 2022
(RECEIVE AND FILE)

- ◆ Robert Lee presented the Customer Service Report for June:
- ◆ Received 1,475 inbound calls. Of those calls, 1249 or 84.6% percent were answered within the first 30 seconds.
- ◆ Overall, water consumption decreased by 4%.
- ◆ Sewer revenue has decreased by 0.6%.
- ◆ Call volume increased slightly in May but has gone down in July.
- ◆ Automated services: issuing about 21,829 bills: 33% paid online, 12% paid over the phone, 22% signed up for e-bill and 15% of those customers have signed up for auto pay.
- ◆ Consumption: Currently, water consumption is following the normal trend and is in line with what has happened in the past.
- ◆ Revenue: Sewer revenue consumption has decreased by .6% and water revenue decreased by 4.6%, when compared against prior month.
- ◆ Aging: Following past trend. The number of delinquent customers prior to Covid is very similar to the number of delinquent accounts during and after Covid. The past due balance has increased substantially. It increased from

500K prior to covid to exceeding 2M, then dropped to 1.6M by June. The decrease was attributed to funding received from the California Water Board in the amounts of 384K for water arrearages and 551K for sewer, which were all applied to customers past due balances.

- ◆ July's tax role was for a total of 869K, which is less than what we've done in past years of 1.2M.
- ◆ David Terry, project manager for water system, presented highlights:
- ◆ We are compliant with all our samples in the system.
- ◆ We lowered Rialto Well 3 roughly 60 ft.
- ◆ Working closely with CV and CP Construction on mainline paving projects.
- ◆ The Riverside North portion of work went well. Paving has started and will be completed shortly.
- ◆ Next, they will move to the central part. There will be service line, lateral, and valve replacements.
- ◆ After that they will move down to Willow.
- ◆ Michael Newton, wastewater project manager, presented highlights:
- ◆ Treatment plant performed well throughout the month.
- ◆ Effluent levels were met or in some cases better than permit limits.
- ◆ There were 3 residential call outs and 1 SSO in the period of June.
- ◆ Commissioner Shields asked what is the corking of the manhole? Marlon explained it is a temporary fix to resolving our roach issue.
- ◆ CV, project manager of capital projects for Veolia, presented highlights:
- ◆ The Sycamore lift station is in procurement /design modifications.
- ◆ Riverside North water main project was completed at the end of March.
- ◆ Rialto microgrid project: Final report is in review.
- ◆ Digester 1 Activation project: Subcontracts issued.
- ◆ Riverside Ave Central: There was a kickoff with CP Construction to start the project. Signs will be going up shortly.
- ◆ Riverside Ave Sewer Relief project: Paving contractor is going to start after Riverside Ave. This location has capacity issues with the current 8" sewer line. It is currently 80% full. They do not plan on replacing the existing sewer line but rather run another panel relief line because the existing line is under the sidewalk. Creating a new line will be more cost effective.

Questions & Comments

- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood mentioned a customer's complaint regarding the water company refusing to check his water lateral. Marlon will reach out to the customer to assist., as it is not customary at all to refuse this type of service.
- ◆ June Hayes stated to Marlon that her recollection is that we are very hesitant to look into someone's lateral because if we do any damage we are responsible.
- ◆ Marlon provided the following normal practice:
 1. Check the main lines in the street
 2. Jet the line to make sure it is cleared

3. If the residents have any issues, we will instruct them to contact a plumber.
4. If the plumber has any questions about how far he should run he snake, we will provide the plumber with the on-call number to help guide them on what they need to do.
5. The customers are responsible for the line all the way up to the connection.

- ◆ June mentioned she remembers when there was a lot of roaches in downtown Rialto, and they went into the manholes and it solved the problems. Can we do that again?
- ◆ Marlon responded to June and advised that they can.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked how many additions will the Lennar development bring to the sewer? Tom responded with 700.

Action

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OLD BUSINESS

Item 1 – Previous Discussion

- ◆ Tom mentioned the approval of Professional Service Agreement with ARUP for the Triannual report. Steve with Dopudja Wells will be involved. We should see a completed report by the end of the year.
- ◆ IEUA update on sale of effluent from Rialto to IEUA. Agreement has been approved. We should have a formal agreement completed in September or October.

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Item 2- To Do List

- ◆ None.

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UTILITIES MANAGER'S UPDATES

- ◆ None.

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COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

- ◆ June Hayes will present a report on "Why do we care about endangered species" during the next meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

- ◆ Chairperson Zrelak-Rickman made a motion to adjourn
- ◆ Commissioner Chitwood seconded the motion.
- ◆ Motion Carried.
- ◆ Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.