



**CITY OF RIALTO  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
August 20, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.**

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 20, 2019.

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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 Zrelak-Rickman called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

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**ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken by Commission Clerk, Michele Aguirre.

Present:

Chairperson Barbara Zrelak-Rickman  
Vice-Chairperson June Hayes  
Commissioner Kevin C. Kobbe  
Commissioner James M. Shields

Absent:

Commissioner Richard "Kim" Chitwood.  
Aguirre advised that Commissioner Chitwood did provide notification that he would not attend the August meeting.

City Staff Present:

Tom Crowley, Susanne Wilcox, and Amy Crow

Also Present:

Rolf Ohlemutz, David Terry, Chandrasekar Venkatraman (CV), Richard Perna and Robert Lee

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Zrelak-Rickman led the pledge of allegiance.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE/  
INVOCATION**

Tom Crowley led the Invocation.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of July 16, 2019

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2019 as written.
- ◆ Commissioner Shields seconded the motion.
- ◆ Motion carried.
- ◆ Vote 4 to 0 in favor of approval of the minutes as written.

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**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- ◆ None

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## **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **ITEM 1 – Monthly Activity Report for City of Rialto Waste Management Services (RECEIVE AND FILE)**

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- ◆ Amy Crow presented the monthly Waste Management Report.
- ◆ Crow reviewed the special collection reports.

#### **Questions & Comments**

- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe asked:
  - If there was a limit per person on shredding.
  - Commented that at the April shredding event he was told that only four (4) per person were allowed.
  - If the next event was in October.
  - If the October event was when residents could bring couches.

#### **Action**

- ◆ **The Commission received and accepted the presentation.**

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### **ITEM 2 – Veolia's Monthly Maintenance & Operation Report (RECEIVE AND FILE)**

- ◆ Richard Perna reviewed the monthly Wastewater Report.
- ◆ Perna provided updates to the following items:
  - All staff positions are full.
  - All lift station operation working routinely.
  - Had one overflow on June 1<sup>st</sup> on Pepper Avenue, was about 15,000 gallons, appeared to be a blockage of paper and plastics, it did not get into a body of water, was reported promptly, clean-up lasted to June 4<sup>th</sup> and no residents were impacted.
  - Had an operator error with the chlorine contact requirement on July 19, 2019.
  - Received a notice from Cal OSHA on how safety was performed.
  - Issue with one of the digesters.
  - Had two (2) sewer overflows in July, both were not sewer issues. One was an overflow at a privately-owned lift-station and the other was a miscommunication between a father and son.
  - Conducting PFAS sampling would occur on August 29, 2019.
  - Conducting bacterioid samplings.
- ◆ David Terry provided an update on the following:
  - Catching up on the flushing program.
  - Lost one (1) staff member.
  - Checking on dosing of the hydrochloride system at various wells.
- ◆ Robert Lee provided an update on the following:
  - Handled 1,705 calls for June. Advised that calls would be lower in July and August due to the resignation of an employee and some system issues. Tom Crowley added that this was due to the issues with the City's email system.
  - No customers were turned away.
  - Water consumption and revenues fluctuate but were on trend.
  - Submitted \$1.2M to the County for the tax roll for sewer.
- ◆ CV provided an update on the following FIP projects:
  - W6 – City Well 2 Project

- S1 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, CV provided a drone video of the project, an explanation of the various tasks being performed and the project progress. Crowley pointed out that the two (2) new digesters for the Rialto Bioenergy facility could be seen from this video as well.

#### Questions & Comments

- ◆ Concerning the overflow, Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked if Veolia had an idea of how that blockage occurred.
- ◆ Concerning the operator error, Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked how low the chlorine went and if the number was a significant different.
- ◆ Concerning the issues with the digester, Vice-Chairperson Hayes ask in what constituent did the issue occur in.
- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes:
  - Asked about the PFAS testing.
    - A discussion ensued regarding the testing process.
  - Asked if there was a theory of why Orange County was getting so much “stuff” from Prado.
  - Asked if there was any customer awareness of the issues with the system.
  - Commented on the quick response and pleasant demeanor given by Ramona. She stated it was such a pleasure to have a positive experience.
- ◆ Chairperson Zrelak-Rickman asked about the response for why there was a decrease of income on the Wastewater side and asked if this included bad debts.
- ◆ Concerning the S1 video, Vice-Chairperson Hayes asked if dirt was put back around the clarifier and if the dirt was stable or if it would come down when it rained.

#### Action

- ◆ **The Commission received and accepted the report.**

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#### OLD BUSINESS

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Item 1 – Previous Discussion Updates

Item 2 – To Do List

- ◆ Crowley advised that all the questions from the previous meetings were answered.
- ◆ Crowley advised that the Lancaster CCA presentation was put on hold due to the lack of a scheduled launch date.

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#### UTILITIES MANAGER UPDATES

- ◆ Nothing to report.

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#### COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

- ◆ Vice-Chairperson Hayes reported on the following:
  - The Student Commissioner, Marc Galvan was nominated for and was accepted as a finalist for the Eloise Reyes “30 Under 30” Award.
  - Provided copies of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District’s 2018 Annual Report.

- Advised that San Bernardino Valley made the decision to lower the rate on property owners tax bills by approximately 6% which would show up on the fall tax bill.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

- ◆ Commissioner Shields made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ◆ Commissioner Kobbe seconded motion.
- ◆ Motion Carried.
- ◆ Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.