



**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, 401 CALIFORNIA AVENUE,
BOULDER CITY NV 89005**

NOVEMBER 09, 2023 - 1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

CONFIRMATION OF POSTING AND ROLL CALL

Members present: Chairman Larry Karr, Member Howard Analla, Member Ned Shamo (3)

Absent: Member Lloyd Anderson, Member Greg Todd (2)

Also present: Utilities Director Joseph Stubitz, Utilities Analyst Joshua Hardy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment offered.

AGENDA

1. For possible action: Approval of the August 2, 2023 Utility Advisory Committee meeting minutes

Motion: Motion to approve the August 2, 2023 Utility Advisory Committee meeting minutes with the removal of Marty Rhiel as a member.

Moved by: Chairman Larry Karr **Seconded by:** Member Ned Shamo

Vote:

Aye: Chairman Larry Karr, Member Howard Analla, Member Ned Shamo (3)

Nay: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: Member Lloyd Anderson, Marty Rihel, Member Greg Todd (3)

Motion Passed

2. Status Update on Progress and Developments of Ongoing Capital Improvement Projects

Utilities Engineer Bill Bruninga reviewed the ongoing utilities projects, informing the committee about the progress and current status. He also mentioned that some completed projects had unused funds, which would be reallocated to other ongoing initiatives.

Chairman Karr asked about the timeline for ordering transformers for substation 4.

Utilities Director Stubitz responded by referring to the city's five-year strategic plan, which includes details about the transformer procurement.

Member Shamo inquired about the types of materials used in the Copper Services Replacement project, specifically asking about the prevalence of PVC versus POLY.

Engineer Bruninga clarified that both materials are being used in the project.

The status of the East Tank was brought up by Chairman Karr, who asked if it was being drained.

Engineer Bruninga confirmed that the tank is out of service and dry, elaborating on a consultant's recommendation for re-coating and system updates. The estimated costs for refurbishment and replacement were approximately \$1.5 million and \$3.5 million, respectively.

Finance Manager Angela Manninen discussed the ARPA funding for various city projects, explaining the funding mechanism, allocation process, and eligibility criteria for the projects.

3. For possible action: Review and Discussion of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Utilities Director Stubitz opened the discussion by outlining the five-year capital improvement plan covering electric, water, and wastewater. He detailed the specific projects and their respective budgets.

Chairman Karr asked about the Meter Upgrades project, questioning its status as a

placeholder and the necessity of its full budget.

In response to Chairman Karr, Director Stubitz emphasized the importance of the upgrades for avoiding outages and other issues.

Chairman Karr recommended adding a specific vehicle name to the project titled "Replace Unit 602" for clarity.

A question was raised by Chairman Karr about the budget for pole replacements, specifically whether the \$3 million allocation was in addition to the previously mentioned \$1 million from an aerial study.

Director Stubitz clarified that a large number of poles still need replacement, and the budget primarily covers materials and labor, with no immediate need for new pole purchases.

The discussion on the five-year plan continued, with Chairman Karr suggesting the postponement of the Substation 6 Upgrade project to FY28 and FY29.

Member Shamo inquired about the conductors on Adams Blvd and their connection between substations 2 and 3.

Director Stubitz confirmed that the ties would be underground, necessitating trenching, which explains the high budget allocation.

Chairman Karr proposed splitting the costs of Substation 5 upgrades over different fiscal years to distribute the financial burden.

Director Stubitz noted that this approach could limit the project's scope.

Chairman Karr questioned the scope of the Sanitary Sewer Upgrade project, including the potential rebuilding of Lift Station 3.

Director Stubitz explained that the project is a general placeholder, like the Copper Services project, for necessary replacements.

Vice chairman Analla asked for details on the "Effluent Splitter Box Project," to which Director Stubitz replied about its necessity.

Chairman Karr sought clarity on the Concrete Line Aeration Basin project's dependency on the Southern Nevada Water Authority's feasibility study.

Director Stubitz affirmed the project's necessity, noting the study's outcomes would influence it.

Regarding the Copper Services project, Chairman Karr inquired about its duration

beyond FY29 and funding sufficiency through FY25.

Director Stubitz acknowledged the project's extension beyond FY29 and discussed financial strategies, including potential fund reallocations.

Chairman Karr suggested allocating funds for FY25 to address any unforeseen issues in the Copper Services project. Director Stubitz proposed transferring \$300,000 from the PRV project in FY25 to cover this.

Director Stubitz wrapped up his review of the five-year plan.

Chairman Karr concluded the session by going over the capital improvement budget calendar for upcoming meetings.

4. Update from Utilities Director Stubitz regarding water and power consumption

Director Stubitz presented an overview of the city's water and power consumption for the previous months.

Chairman Karr raised a request for the committee to receive actual data on electric consumption, instead of relying on forecasted usage.

Utilities Analyst Joshua Hardy explained that the city is currently awaiting deviation reports from the Silver State Energy Association (SSEA), which would provide the necessary actual usage data.

Furthering the discussion on electric consumption, Chairman Karr inquired whether the next budget from SSEA would be available for the committee's review in the upcoming January meeting.

Director Stubitz responded that while the full report might not be ready by then, if a draft version is received, it would be shared with the committee for preliminary insights.

Vice Chairman Analla brought up a point regarding the perception of Boulder City's water usage. He highlighted that the city is often criticized for having higher water consumption per capita compared to neighboring cities. However, he argued that these comparisons are not fair or accurate, as Boulder City experiences significantly reduced expansion and growth. This, according to Vice Chairman Analla, renders the per capita water usage comparisons between Boulder City and its neighbors as not being "apples to apples."

5. Discuss potential agenda items related to revenue requirements of the utility for upcoming meetings

During the meeting, Chairman Karr proposed scheduling the next committee meeting for January 3, 2024, and suggested holding meetings on the first Wednesday of each month thereafter. This schedule would also allow for the flexibility to add additional

meetings if needed.

Chairman Karr recommended that the agenda for the next meeting include a discussion on the administrative fund, similar to the updates presented in the current meeting. Additionally, he emphasized the need to discuss future rate studies, highlighting their importance for the committee's planning and decision-making processes.

The committee discussed the following future agenda topics:

1. Approval of the minutes from the current meeting.
2. A review of ongoing Capital Improvement Projects.
3. An update on water and power consumption.
4. A detailed discussion on the administrative charges.
5. A discussion of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan
6. An agenda item dedicated to discussing future rate studies, focusing on their implications and planning requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment offered.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Larry Karr, Chairman

Joshua Hardy, Utilities Analyst