



CITY OF
FOLSOM
DON'T NOTICE BY NATURE

Utility Commission Regular Meeting Approved Minutes

City Council Chambers | 50 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630
January 16, 2024
6:30 PM

Call to Order

Chair Menz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: L. Ladd, M. Menz, A. Silva, B. Vempati, T. Widby, Z. Akhter,
A. Ross
ABSENT: none
STAFF PRESENT: Marcus Yasutake: Environmental & Water Resources Director
Mark Rackovan: Public Works Director
Marie McKeeth: General Services Manager
Emma Atkinson: Management Analyst, EWR

Business from the Floor

None.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the October 17, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Widby motioned to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Silva seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner Ladd, Menz, Vempati, Akhter, Ross

Directors' Reports

Public Works:

Director Rackovan:

- The Waste and Recycling Division has been providing information to the community at various local events. This is part of the ongoing rollout and education related to the SB1383 Organics Recycling Program.
- In partnership with the County of Sacramento and the City of Sacramento, the evaluation phase for proposals for the long term organics processing has been completed. This included technical evaluation, cost analysis and compatibility evaluation. The jurisdictions are now entering the negotiation phase, with the goal of securing organics capacity for the next 10-15 years.

- A \$50,000 Household Hazardous Waste grant has been completed. This is being used to replace an aging locker with an updated container.
- The robust phase of educating the community in achieving compliance with SB1383 is active, as the roll-out phase is near completion. There are still a few communities that don't have green bins, but in the main the community is equipped to move forward with organics recycling. Bins are being checked and educational notices are being issued. We are not in an enforcement phase yet but will be transitioning to that within the next year or so.
- The Recycling Division is experiencing a staffing shortage. It is partially related to competing agencies offering hybrid schedules that allow for some work from home, which is not offered to City of Folsom employees.

Marie McKeeth:

- The non-profit, The Recycling Partnership, is doing outreach to test educational materials. Large samples of collected waste from various routes within the area have been sorted and weighed to provide data to show how much recyclables are being captured, and how much is ending up in the trash. This has provided clear accurate information about community behavior in relation to recycling and allows for more effective and targeted education. At the end of the study, after implementing educational materials, they will again collect and sort trash samples to assess what changes have taken place. They are still working on this, and it should be completed in springtime.

Commissioner Widby: What has been learned so far?

Cardboard is being recycled at a high rate (80%) and there is concern within the community about capacity, resulting in requests for a weekly service or a free 2nd can. There is a lack of understanding about how much recycling costs. Also, we are not capturing as much paper and plastic as we should be, so much of the education is focused on that.

Chair Menz asked if residents could have the damaged lids on carts replaced. *Residents can call, email, or submit the request through the app (which is on the website). The whole can is replaced (rather than just the lid).*

Environmental and Water Resources:

Director Yasutake:

- Budget season is almost underway and EWR staff is gathering information in preparation for this. Base Operations and Maintenance budgets are expected soon. Meetings with the City Manager, Finance and HR teams are typically scheduled for the end of February / early March. The CIP budget is expected in late March. More budget information will be provided to the Utility Commission at the March meeting.
- EWR has received a donation of \$25,000 from Kikkoman to upgrade/renovate the water quality laboratory at the Water Treatment Plant. A new layout is being designed, and new lab equipment including plumbing upgrades and shelving is being ordered and installed.
- Next month's Utility Commission meeting will also be the kick-off for the Water Vision project. The meeting will be held in the Police Department training room.

There has been some interest from the community in response to recent articles in the news about the project.

- There is a citizens group supporting a Sales Tax initiative. Items related to a potential sales tax were discussed at the last City Council meeting. Commissioners were invited to view the recording of the meeting, available on the website, to hear the discussion.
- The State of the City is on January 24. The Chamber is hosting a luncheon where Mayor Kozlowski will deliver the State of the City address. A recording of this may be available at a later date.

New Business

- **Advanced Clean Fleet Regulation:**

Director Rackovan provided a presentation and information related to the regulation and the potential impacts to the City, and responded to questions and comments from the Commission.

Chair Menz: Has any city challenged this?

The League of California Cities has stated it is infeasible, partly due to budget but also as some of the vehicles don't even exist yet. Policies are being implemented that require cities to report on progress, with fines imposed for failure to meet the goals. That is in place before the vehicles have been designed and manufactured. There is still hope that as deadlines approach there will be a better understanding that the goals are not achievable, and so more realistic targets will be set.

Chair Menz: Are we able to purchase vehicles from outside California (for example from Nevada)?

The state doesn't care from where the vehicle is purchased, as long as the percentage ZEV goal is achieved by their deadline. For example, a jurisdiction that needs to purchase a medium duty pick-up truck may be compelled to purchase an overpriced vehicle from Florida, if it is the only vehicle of that type available, otherwise the jurisdiction risks being fined for being non-compliant.

Chair Menz: Are we required to comply with this regulation rather than 1383?

The objective is to hit the target percentage of electric vehicles in the fleet by the deadline.

Commissioner Widby: What is the expected lifetime of the vehicles?

A lot of them have not even been manufactured yet, so there is no track record.

Commissioner Ross: Is this requiring replacement of vehicles even if the life of the vehicle is still usable? So rather than being required to buy an EV when you need to buy a new truck, it is a case of having to buy a new truck to meet the requirement even though a new truck isn't needed at that time?

Option 1 offers more latitude to hold on to vehicles as long as they are deemed usable, but then once they need to be replaced the requirement is to buy EV. That is why Option 1 is preferred to Option 2, as it doesn't force compliance by 2039. It gives a little more latitude.

Director Yasutake: Some water agencies made significant financial investments last year to purchase many new medium to heavy duty trucks, so that they have 15 or more years before they are required to purchase EV vehicles. This is partly due to awareness that the required type of EV vehicles will not necessarily be available within that timeframe.

Chair Menz: That makes a lot of sense and is a good approach to take.
Yes, if there is available budget and vehicles, it does make sense.

Chair Menz: Do they consider E85 or alcohol fuel as an option?
No.

Chair Menz: For reporting, do they tell you what detailed information on the vehicles is required?
Yes.

Chair Menz commented that SMUD is not guaranteeing delivery of enough power to cover these vehicles. Also, there is no shop around that has the required clearance space for a maintenance facility.

Commissioner Ross: Is there any partnership with neighboring agencies for training etc.?
Not yet, but the city will take advantage of any opportunities offered. There are regional partnerships that will work on this.

Commissioner Ross asked about the new Corporation yard.
A condition of the Folsom Plan Area is to set aside land for the new corporation yard site. This land is on the Southeast corner of Prairie City and White Rock. The site is larger than the current corporation yard, but it is undeveloped and has not been environmentally cleared. It is hoped that direction to start planning and design of the corporation yard will be given later this year.

Commissioner Widby: Has this regulation been discussed with City Council?
It will be presented in February.

Commissioner Widby and Chair Menz commented that funding is not available for this. Commissioner Widby commented that it will require spending money that we don't have, and some funds will be wasted as rules could still change. Opposition to the tax measure should be expected if it is used to fund this. This needs to be aggressively opposed. The City should join the League and others to figure out a better approach.

That is a sentiment that is shared by many agencies and municipalities. It is going to take some of the larger municipalities (like Los Angeles) to really drive it home.

Commissioner Silva: Assuming this will cause a rate increase, when will we need to start those discussions?

Director Rackovan: I don't know that there are rates that can be used to fund this, other than for Solid Waste vehicles. There could potentially be a rate hike associated with those vehicles but what do we do about general fund fleet? These can't be funded through fees; they can only be funded through taxation. A rate increase is only a partial option that may need to be considered at some point.

Director Yasutake: From a water and wastewater perspective, it is unlikely that the required heavy duty vehicles will be available on the market within the next 5 years, especially ones that have been proven reliable through several years of testing. Many add-ons are required for our vehicles, which increases the weight, impacting the performance and travelling distance of the vehicle, so we do not expect to be confident enough to state that we are going to be able to purchase any of the vehicles within the next 5 years. Also, as a jurisdiction, we are fairly compact and the majority of our vehicles stay within the City limits, so we would be challenged to meet the 150,000 mile threshold before the 15 year time period. A rate increase would therefore not be anticipated within the next 5 years, unless it was for something like helping to fund EV associated infrastructure for the new corporation yard.

With reference to joining others in opposition to this, there have been discussions with state lobbyists within regional water agency meetings. From their perspective, the current administration has no inclination to rescind or revise the legislation as it is thought that keeping it as-is will help push the manufacturers towards developing the necessary technology and equipment.

Chair Menz: Can current garbage trucks run just 3 or 4 hours on a full charge?

McKeeth: We don't have any yet, but they are supposed to be able to complete a route. We have purchased two; both chassis are built and are waiting for the body to be installed. Part of the strategy in buying them is to test them, so we can make an argument if they can't do what we need them to do. We have also adopted a strategy of maintaining more vehicles than we normally would; we are not disposing of any trucks. Manufacturers have told us we will not be able to get diesel trucks next year as they are focused on EVs. We just purchased new trucks, and we are not getting rid of the old ones. We will maintain them, but that is expensive even if they are not being used, as we have to inspect them and keep them operable, so there is already a cost impact. Also, by waiting, we may be able to take advantage of some exemptions that we know will be released next year. We are waiting to see what is on that list. Infrastructure is an issue as well, as we will be slow charging the new electric trucks as we do not have the heavy duty chargers yet. It is all a pilot at this point.

Chair Menz commented that the heavy duty chargers cause battery life to shorten. One option to look at is changing the work schedule to accommodate charging time.

Chair Menz thanked Director Rackovan for the informative presentation.

- **Calendar of Topics:**

Director Yasutake presented a suggested calendar of topics for the Utility Commission, to allow commissioners opportunity for feedback.

Commissioner Widby suggested including a discussion of risk management and what the City is doing about the top few items. He will contact Director Yasutake directly with more details.

Chair Menz suggested Commissioners think about items to include, and email suggestions to Director Yasutake.

Adjournment

Chair Menz reminded the Commission of the change in venue for the next meeting, which will be in the Police Department training room, on Tuesday Feb 20 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emma Atkinson, Management Analyst

Approved:



Mark Menz, Utility Commissioner Chair.