

**CITY OF WINTER PARK
UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

Regular Meeting
500 N. Virginia Ave
Public Safety Community Room

April 26, 2017
12:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Richard James (Chair)
Rick Baldocchi
Hugh James
Jennifer Lyons
Lawrie Platt Hall
Tara Tedrow

Absent: None

City of Winter Park Staff: Troy Attaway, Director of Public Works
Abby Gulden, Sustainability Coordinator
Kris Stenger, Asst. Director Building & Permitting
Wes Hamil, Director of Finance
David Zusi, Director of Water and Wastewater Utility
Jason Riegler, Asst. Director of Water & Wastewater Utility
Terry Hotard, Asst. Director Electric Utility
Linda Antonion, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Richard James called the April 26, 2017 Utilities Advisory Board meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

Chair called for the approval of the minutes from the March 22, 2017 regular meeting. Motion was made, seconded and approved, unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Water/Sewer bi-annual fees' schedule adjustments request was explained by David Zusi and Wes Hamil. Fees are for labor/material services provided to residents, contractors, or commercial users and do not affect rates charged for water/sewer usage. These adjustments will be presented to the Board in the next few months then to the Commission at budget time. Most fees will be

affected by either labor or material cost increases or decreases. An action item was assigned to present the current list of utility fees at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSED

Troy Attaway and Kris Stenger provided information obtained at a meeting with OUC regarding solar power and the possibility of a joint project. OUC's current community solar program (which provides 440KW) is full. They are planning two new "solar farms" at their Stanton plant to provide 5MW and 7MW. OUC representatives expressed interest in potentially working with WP Electric Utility to partner on these new installations. There will be further information coming from OUC in the future, as well as further discussions and exploration of the solar possibilities both with and without OUC's partnership. Troy stated that solar will always be consideration for power in the future including in the new contracts negotiated with our power suppliers. Kris stated that the City was proceeding on placing small solar installations on our water treatment plants with capacity to allow these facilities to be self-sustaining. The Board agreed to include a report on solar in all future meetings.

REPORTS

Financial Director Wes Hamil presented the Financials report and responded to questions. Water/Wastewater was doing well with sales and the revenues above budget targets (due to the drought) and expenses were within budget. Debt service coverage was good and the bottom line was positive. Electric's financial outlook was predicted to be close to 0 at year's end due to the loss of revenue, caused by less electrical usage due to the mild weather over the winter months. If the summer has above normal weather (*i.e.*, hotter) the financial outlook may improve somewhat.

Chair addressed David Zusi for the Water/Wastewater report. The department has been busy with three large I-4 crossings which will continue for the next few weeks. He stated that this work will improve the moving of the water east/west in our system. He also reported that a couple of sewer main extensions are planned for south of Fairbanks Avenue. The Board assigned him an action item to provide the Consumptive Use Report at the next meeting.

Troy Attaway next presented the Electric Utility performance. Sales are coming in under forecast due to the down turn in heating and cooling degree days. Plus new commercial sites are replacing older, less efficient systems that used more electricity, so although the number of commercial users is increasing the amount of commercial sales has been declining. Sales projections for the next budget year are now being developed and will be more conservative. In addition, a rate increase of 4 – 5% will be included in the next fiscal year budget.

Chair requested Abby Gulden to provide the sustainability report next. The rebates program is proceeding smoothly. Five more electric car chargers are in the process of being purchased for park locations plus 2 electric vehicles for the use by the building inspectors along with a commercial charging station for these vehicles. Use of the current electric charging stations continues to increase as electric vehicles become more popular. Finally, more water bottle filling stations for the parks are being purchased. Since Abby is resigning from the City staff, the Chair

recognized her for all her excellent work over the years in improving the City's sustainability programs.

Two new issues were broached next by a board member: getting Spectrum to underground their cables after the underground conduits have been provided by the electric and that consideration for a City-fiber optic network be made. Troy stated that a study was done about 9 months ago for the Commissioners. Due to the number of questions raised by the Board, Troy Attaway will arrange for Peter Moore to attend the next meeting to provide more information regarding the City's fiber optic backbone planning.

FURTHER ACTION:

Add solar as standard agenda topic.

Provide current list of utility fees.

Provide Consumptive Use Report.

Peter Moore provide information on City's plan for fiber optic backbone.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. James, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".