

Water Commission REGULAR MEETING

Excerpt from DRAFT MINUTES

18 June, 2026 – 5:30 PM

222 Laporte Ave., 1st Floor, Colorado River Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

a. 5:31 PM

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Commissioners Present (In Person): Chairperson Laura Chartrand, Heidi Schram, Jordan Radin, Nicole Ng, Nick Martin, Paul Herman, Carson Madryga
- b. Commissioners Present (online via Teams): None
- c. Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair James Bishop, Gregory Steed;
- d. Staff Members Present (In Person): Gina Shubin, Jen Dial, Michael Neale, Nicole Poncelet-Johnson, Jill Oropeza, Andrew Gingerich, Eric Potyondy, Erik Monnahan, Cindy Farnes, Joe Wimmer, Greg Stonecipher
- e. Staff Members Present (online via Teams): None
- f. Guests: Rob Graves

3. REGULAR (ACTION) ITEMS

a. One Water Utility Long-term Water Rental Policy

(Presentation: 15 minutes, Discussion: 10 minutes) *Jen Dial, Water Resources Manager*

Mrs. Dial was present to answer questions regarding the memo 'May 21 Water Commission Meeting Follow Up Memo' provided in the packet that addressed questions and concerns with the One Water Long-term Rental Policy that was presented at the May 21st Water Commission meeting. Mrs. Dial stated that staff are requesting the Water Commissioners recommend City Council adopt this policy.

Discussion Highlights

A commissioner expressed appreciation for their concerns being addressed within the memo provided. Clarification was sought for whether commercial and industrial entities would be eligible to participate in the long-term rental program. While the policy does not directly address, nor limit, the ability to enter into long-term agreements for commercial and industrial uses, Mrs. Dial explained that commercial and industrial uses may not be considered a higher benefit/value to the City, Utility, and community compared to other user/uses because the oil and gas industry is primarily located outside of the City and thus has limited beneficial impact to the City, Utility and community. It was noted City Council has generally not shown support for the oil and gas industry in the past and may not approve a recommendation if an agreement

were to be presented to them. There was also inquiry about potential water rights limitations associated with rented water. Mrs. Dial concurred that the allowable use of rented water could be subject to water rights restrictions depending on the specific use and circumstances of the rental agreement. Mrs. Dial informed the Commission that the proposed policy is scheduled for City Council consideration on July 21.

Commissioner Radin moved to recommend City Council adopt the proposed Long-Term Water Rental Policy.

Commissioner Schram seconded the motion

Vote on the motion: it passed **5-2**

Commissioner Martin voted in opposition to the motion. He stated that he did not believe a formal long-term rental policy was necessary given the significant variability in future water availability and supply conditions. He expressed a preference for evaluating potential rental opportunities on a case-by-case basis rather than through an established policy framework. Commissioner Martin also voiced concern that implementing a long-term rental program while simultaneously proposing utility rate increases could create a perception among ratepayers that excess water is available despite rising costs.

Chair Chartrand also voted in opposition to the motion. She expressed concern that the proposed policy does not provide opportunities for commercial and industrial entities that employ Fort Collins residents and may have an interest in participating in a future rental program. She noted that commercial and industrial users may represent an opportunity to generate additional revenue through higher rental rates and encouraged staff to further evaluate the program's structure and potential participants, particularly in light of anticipated utility rate increases.

Minutes **to be approved** by the Chair and a vote of the Water Commission on **08/20/2026**.