

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES WATER COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Oct. 19, 2023, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hybrid in person at 222 LaPorte Ave and online via Zoom

The Water Commission advises City Council regarding water, wastewater, and stormwater policy issues such as water rights, planning, acquisition and management, conservation and public education, floodplain regulations, storm drainage, and development criteria. Read more at <https://www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/boards/water>.

CALL TO ORDER

5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- *Commissioners Present In Person:* Jordan Radin (Chairperson), Paul Herman (Vice Chairperson), Kent Bruxvoort, Rick Kahn, Jason Tarry
- *Commissioners Present via Zoom:* Tyler Eldridge, Greg Steed
- *Commissioners Absent - Excused:* James Bishop, John Primsky
- *Staff Members Present In Person:* Jason Graham, Katherine Martinez, Jeremy Woolf, Randy Reuscher, Lance Smith, Kendall Minor, Jill Oropeza, Heather Young
- *Staff Members Present via Zoom:* Katie Collins

NEW BUSINESS

Regular Items

i. 2024 Utilities Rates and Fees

Lead Analyst-Utility Rate Randy Reuscher presented on the proposed rates and answered questions along with Community Engagement Manager Heather Young and Utilities Strategic Finance Director Lance Smith.

This item was rescheduled from the Sept. 21 meeting that was cancelled due to technical difficulties. Staff presented this item to City Council on Oct. 17 (Council approved the proposed rates on first reading of the ordinance) and seek Water Commissioners' recommendation to Council to approve the proposed 2024 Utility Rates and Fees before the second reading on Nov. 21.

This agenda item is related to Strategic Outcome "Economic Health 3.5 Invest in and maintain utility infrastructure and services while ensuring predictable utility rates."

DRAFT UNAPPROVED MINUTES WATER COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

2024 proposed increases are 5% for Electric, 4% for Water, 4% for Wastewater, and 3% for Stormwater. Ms. Young summarized the assistance provided to income-qualified community members (emergency assistance, efficiency upgrades, and seasonal & monthly assistance).

Discussion Highlights

Commissioners commented on or inquired about various related topics including whether infrastructure replacement is funded by development fees or operations budget (Mr. Reuscher replied that replacements and improvements are funded by operations budget); observation that Utilities is falling short on linear replacement (due to budget restrictions); rate increases will help support rising cost of infrastructure replacement; big infrastructure projects and related upcoming costs (capital improvement projects); Capital Improvement Plan and budget process address the most critical infrastructure improvements first; replacement schedule; majority of capital projects are funded through Utilities rates (Halligan Water Supply Project and other projects are funded by debt issuance/government bonds).

Vice Chairperson Herman moved that the Water Commission recommend City Council adopt the proposed changes to the Utility water, wastewater and stormwater rates as presented.

Commissioner Bruxvoort seconded the motion.

Vote on the Motion: it passed unanimously, 7-0

Minutes will be approved by the Water Commission on Nov. 16, 2023