



# Hildale / Colorado City Utility Board

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM

320 East Newel Avenue, Hildale City, Utah 84784

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## Minutes

**Roll Call of Board Attendees:** Utility Administrative Deputy Director LaCorti

Present: Chairman Black, Board Member White, Board Member Jessop, Board Member Barlow, Board Member Cooke.

Staff present: Hildale City Manager Eric Duthie, Weston Barlow, Nathan Fischer, Mariah La Corti

Public Present: JVar Dutson, Darlene Stubbs, Dalton Barlow, Jerusha Jeffs, Brandon Barlow, John Holm, James Barlow, Jacque White, Loretta Moodie, Lisa Burnham, Alan Barlow, Stacy Seay, Terrill Johnson, Lehi Steed

**Welcome, Introduction and Preliminary Matters:** Presiding Officer

Chairman Black welcomed the public. A special welcome to JVar Dutson, a Hildale City Councilmember and who previously served on the Utility Board. He expressed appreciation for the current Board Members, and acknowledged the staff and the work they do. He thanked the City Councils and the people that voted them in. He further reiterated that the goal of the Utility Board is to review and recommend to the Councils good decisions on behalf of the Utility Department. The Cities are under a DOJ Intergovernmental rule that makes sure that things that things that happened in the past do not happen again. He has asked the staff to make sure that any decisions that are made and procedures that are done are for the benefit of the customer.

A vice-chair needs to be appointed. Board members were invited to make suggestions or volunteer. Theil Cooke mentioned that Sterling Jessop has the most seniority and experience. This will be on the next meeting agenda for a formal action.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** By Invitation of Presiding Officer

Chairman Black confirmed with the Board that they are in support of offering a prayer at the meeting. All of the Board was in consensus.

Jesse Barlow offered a prayer. The crowd joined in the pledge of allegiance.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosures:** Board Members

None.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:** Board Members

Mariah La Corti presented.

Eric Duthie stepped in to clarify to the Board that the meeting minutes are a summary of the actions, not verbatim. Even though some members were not on the Board at the time, and the Board was reorganized, all of the Board is welcome to make a vote.

**Motion to approve the minutes of the minutes of 2/24/2022 and 7/28/2022 Utility Board Meetings as written.**

Motion made by Board Member Barlow, Seconded by Board Member Jessop, Jr..  
Voting Yea: Chair Black, Board Member Jessop, Jr., Board Member White, Board Member Cooke,  
Board Member Barlow

Motion passes.

**Public Comments:** (3 minutes each - Discretion of Presiding Officer)

Eric Duthie presented a public statement on behalf of the Hildale City concerning water, dated September 14, 2022. A written copy of this statement was provided to the Board. Read and recorded verbatim:

"When trying to find solutions to complex problems it is important to study, research, and discuss with the principal parties, all practical options so information can be gathered and considered. Water future in this valley is the foremost issue we work on, and many are willing to share their ideas about how it should be resolved. Although we may immediately know that a particular suggestion is unusable, we still listen to them all. Then we, internally, discuss their ideas and suggestions to determine whether they are viable.

Dalton Barlow thanked the Board members for their service. He is building a garage in his backyard. Utilities is requiring a connection to the sewer for a singular bathroom in his garage. He would like utilities to reconsider this requirement.

Lehi Steed is in the same business, essentially has the same feelings as Dalton on the sewer provision. He understands the liability side of the requirements, however, separate sewer connections for the same property is not something that he has encountered elsewhere. He is a neighbor to Dalton and intends to build something similar to what he has described. He would like to make sure that he understands the code and requirements.

John Holm is also building a separate garage with a bathroom at his residence. He would like to know if an impact fee will be required for such. He explained a sewer situation regarding his neighbors concerning a potential illegal hookup. This has been in place since before the City was even incorporated according to Weston.

Weston was asked to respond to these issues. He explained that according to the code, a separate dwelling shall have a separate connection. The code explains a procedure to follow if they feel that an exception should be made. Mariah asked them to see her at the office to fill out paperwork.

JVar Dutson addressed the Board regarding connection issues. He spoke regarding water rights, which Eric addressed, and would like to make sure that the people know their questions are getting answered. He wants the people to understand that the Department is at their service and they are always encouraged to give input and expect answers to concerns.

Chairman Black brought up the concern of the rumors that Eric Duthie communicated about. He would like the public know that there are procedures in place that everybody has to comply with and the employees, boards, and councils are being educated on their responsibilities and taking care of things to the best of their capability. He asked the public to not panic, but instead follow procedure and feel free to reach out for information and share their input. He further pointed out that there were no water restrictions in place this summer thanks to the work that the utility staff put in to make sure water was available. He assured the public that they are in good hands with the Utility Department and City Councils, and that Hildale and Colorado City water belongs to this area and cannot go anywhere else.

**Financial Report:** Utility Administrative Deputy Director La Corti

Mariah La Corti presented. Most of the items presented on the report are standard items that will be seen monthly. A few large purchases were made that are on the agenda to be ratified tonight.

Weston Barlow pointed out a large revenue in the water fund which is a reimbursement from Colorado City as part of the ARPA grant for water plant refurbishment which should be accrued to the previous fiscal year.

Jesse Barlow asked about landfill revenues. Weston explained that the Department does the billing and collection for the garbage within both city limits is done within the billing and in exchange they pay us \$2000.00 a month.

JVar Dutson got permission from Board Member Black to ask Weston to explain the actual FY21 numbers. Weston explained that we are still awaiting the audit results. The Water Department budget is the tightest, but grants have made quite a bit of difference in balancing out. Without the grants the Department likely would have been upside-down. Weston informed the public that a rate-study for the water rates is in process right now.

Weston noted that the gas budget is in a negative right now because the fuel is pre-purchased and the revenues for such come in during the winter months. The water budget is in the exact same situation, but flipped. The biggest water revenue comes in during the summer, and it will balance out as the year continues.

**Motion to pay the bills as they become due and the funds are available.**

Motion made by Board Member White, Seconded by Board Member Cooke.

Voting Yea: Chair Black, Board Member Jessop, Jr., Board Member White, Board Member Cooke, Board Member Barlow

Motion passes.

**Reports:**

**Utilities Director Report:**

Weston Barlow presented; report provided in the packet for review. He went over some of the projects currently in process:

In the sewer department we are rebuilding the headworks. The current screen will be replaced with a powered screen which will increase treatment capacity and pond cleanliness. Engineers are finalizing the construction drawings. The screen has been ordered, delivery is expected in December/January. The project includes upgrading the sewer main near the ponds which will be paid for by impact fees. The manholes on the mainline from Mohave out to the new plant will need to be replaced. The pipe is purchased and this will be completed as man hours allow. Upgrades to the line in the area of Arizona Avenue, Homestead Street, Oak Street and Township Avenue will be coming.

Well 15 replacement project is underway. Well 21 was cleaned out and is back in operation. A grant has been awarded from Mohave County ARPA funds. He explained the 3 pieces to this project and the reasoning behind each. The water impact fee and facilities plan is progressing. A special meeting may be required. Water tank repair is in process; before returning to service the Department wants to make sure that everything is fixed, so it is taking a little longer than expected.

In order to get ahead of the Colorado City paving project, we would like to install a gas line prior to paving. This will be blocks of gas main to go from Academy to Mohave, providing the opportunity for lots off of that line to connect. The Department is working with South Zion Estates to get a gas main into their project, which they will be funding and the department will be installing. FERC (Federal Regulation Energy Commission) application has been submitted and is going through staff approval, if approved, this will allow construction of a gate station in Colorado City to feed natural gas to allow natural gas expansion to the area. JVar Dutson asked about a timeframe for the project. Weston informed him that the final sign off from FERC is what we are waiting for. An answer from FERC is expected within 30 days but, if approved, the staff will need time to install the necessary equipment to make the transition.

We have been working with Public Works to install and connect a Fiber Optic line to the airport; this will extend down to the Centennial Park lift station. This will provide a phone and secure link back to dispatch.

Jesse Barlow asked about the temporary water outage at Maxwell Park. Weston informed him that a 2" PVC line broke but has been repaired and everything is back up and running.

**Special Project Manager Report:**

Jerry Postema presented; report provided in the packet for review.

We are still waiting on a decision from the Bureau of Reclamation on the WaterSmart Grant for \$100,000 that was submitted to change out the current meter system for a radio read meter system. Any purchases that we need to make prior to then can be reimbursed or used as in-kind match.

We have applied for a DOT natural gas safety grant This will allow for safety related items such as more valves and protection for meters that are near roads/at risk of getting hit. The application was submitted in the first of

August, not sure when we are expected to hear back, but preferential treatment to underserved communities is expected, giving us a higher chance.

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation which is funded by the United State Department of Agriculture is working with us on a water rate study at no cost to the cities or community. We are hoping to get the information and be able to have a discussion on this in October.

SEARCH grant is special evaluation assistance for an engineering assessment and report of water and sewer system. With this we can then go to the USDA for possible funding of water and sewer projects.

Part of the Water Master Plan update funding came from DEQ of Utah. After speaking with Sunrise Engineering they should be ready for an internal discussion in October and we should be ready for presentation to the Advisory Board before the end of the year. The next step is to complete the facilities plan. Jerry explained the process and why it has taken so long.

#### **Utility Administrative Deputy Director Report:**

Mariah La Corti presented; report provided in the packet for review.

Pay by text option through XpressBillPay is expected to be in place before the end of the month.

#### **New Board Business:** Utilities Director Barlow

##### Ratification of Large Purchases

Weston presented. This purchase is from Mountainland Supply for 24" sewer pipe for the project discussed earlier. This is funded in full by impact fees.

#### **Motion to ratify the purchase of the sewer pipe from Mountainland Supply in the amount of \$98,597.74.**

Motion made by Board Member Cooke, Seconded by Board Member White.

Voting Yea: Chair Black, Board Member Jessop, Jr., Board Member White, Board Member Cooke, Board Member Barlow

Motion passes.

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company gas pipe. Part of which will be used to replace what is being used for South Zion Estates and the previously mentioned project on Hildale Street. This will be paid from what was budgeted for looping with the remaining coming from reserves.

Jesse Barlow asked about any other infrastructure that should be considered. Weston pointed out that if developers along the line are intending to do lot splits now is the time to do it as the street will be being paved.

#### **Motion to ratify the purchase of the gas pipe from Chevron Phillips in the amount of \$78095.96.**

Motion made by Board Member Barlow, Seconded by Board Member Jessop, Jr..

Voting Yea: Chair Black, Board Member Jessop, Jr., Board Member White, Board Member Cooke, Board Member Barlow

Motion passes.

#### **Unfinished Board Business:** Utilities Director Barlow

None.

#### **Board Comments:**

Theil Cooke expressed appreciation for the staff and what they are accomplishing.

Chairman Black asked the public to recognize the commitment of the Board and the staff. The updated Water Master Plan is a public document and the public has access to it, anybody with questions or concerns is encouraged to review it. He challenged the Board to take the IGA and review it thoroughly to understand their responsibilities.

We are expecting to have a special meeting once information is received from Sunrise Engineering regarding water impact fees.

**Executive Session:** As needed

Not needed.

**Adjournment:** Presiding Officer

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Minutes were approved at the Utility Board Meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Athena Cawley, City Recorder

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Rosie White, Town Clerk