

Utility Departments of Hildale/Colorado City

Utility Board Meeting Minutes
320 East Newel Ave, Hildale Utah

August 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Present: Utility Board

Board Members:	Present	Absent	Excused
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Ralph Johnson			X
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Stacy Seay			X
Michael Cawley	X		

Staff Present: Eric Duthie, Weston Barlow, Nathan Burnham, Mariah La Corti

Court Monitor: Not present

Public Present: Vance Barlow

#1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm. Roll was taken, quorum present. Nathan Burnham appeared via zoom.

#2. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Haven Barlow offered a prayer, the crowd joined in the pledge of allegiance.

#3. Roll Call

Quorum present. Ralph Johnson and Stacy Seay excused.

#4. Public Comment

None

#5. Board Member Comment

Jason Black asked Weston about the progress with UEP and water rights regarding the well in Water Canyon. Weston informed him that Hildale City's water rights will be used for this project. If a water rights issue came up it would be dealt with at that time. He affirmed that these rights are not slowing down the project in any way.

JVar Dutson invited the public to participate in the meetings.

#6. Approval of Minutes

No comments.

JVar Dutson moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2021 Board Meeting.

Michael Cawley seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#7. Financial Report

Mariah La Corti presented the invoice register for 7/27/2021-8/23/2021.

JVar Dutson moved to approve pay the bills as funds are made available.

Michael Cawley seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#8. Interim Director Report

A. Managers Report

Eric Duthie reported on the opportunity to visit with the representatives of members of the Five County Association of Governments. He discussed the budget as it relates to the loan from Hildale City. It was determined that by reallocating some of the administration duties that are not allocated to the Utility Department decreases this loan by a total of \$247,439.00. The same thing applied with insurance coverage dealing with propane services. Further reducing the difference by \$40,300.00. In regards to legal, \$0.00 is contributed to the utility accounts. The audit was duplicated between the joint utility fund and the general fund. With the shared cost the cost was reduced to \$15,000.00.

Ultimately this reduces the “loan” from the Hildale City fund to \$76,961.00. As the City continues the financial restricting, it may continue to bring that number down. Chairman Black commended Eric Duthie on his work on this.

JVar Dutson was confused about the “actuality” of the number. He expressed appreciation for the review. Eric is unsure of the remaining deficiencies on the water side but will continue his research.

Eric briefly touched on the proclamation of appreciation for Garkane Energy.

B. Project Manager Report

Jerry Postema presented as the Project Manager. He discussed RFQ from the Washington County Water Conservancy District for the rights-of-way that are needed from the BLM to secure the access to drill wells on BLM property. After review, a scope of project will be secured. He recommended that the City put together a request for qualifications for firms to have on-call.

He discussed the CIB grant requesting water funding in the amount of \$10,000.00. Sunrise was requested to take a look at the details.

EPA requirement for an updated Emergency Response Plan is being reviewed.

He has reached out to a representative to discuss USDA opportunities for water and sewer grants. The interest is very low with 75% of the project being eligible for a grant and 25% being eligible for a loan. It was important to make them aware that we are interested in funding.

There is also discussion on ARPA funding. Broadband is included in such if used for city services or needs which can be funded.

Cooperative purchasing through CHIPS can be used without getting our own individual contracting and pricing.

A meeting is set up with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. With the main focus being manholes, and wastewater improvements.

SEARCH grant is \$30,000.00 which will pay for a professional engineer reports for projects that need improvements which can be used for the grant applications. Jerry is working with Mariah on this process.

JVar requested information on Mohave County funding. They are researching the process for funds. Further, he requested negotiations on the land issue with Scott Jessop.

C. Administrative Report

Mariah La Corti reported on the texting service for customers on the shut-off list, policy implementation of the “customer deposit” for shut-offs, the administrative position and accounts payable position. Further there has been contact with the HEAT utility program sponsored by the State of Utah and the WACOG utility assistance program, sponsored by the State of Arizona have been contacted. Representatives will be coming to the community to aide those in need in

filing their applications. A report on collections was provided. Collections has not been as effective in the past year due to restrictions put in place by states of collection actions.

An agreement as made with Centennial Park Water District for a reduced rate of \$2.50/1,000 gallons with the base rate for rental and deposit waived for hydrant meter use as needed to provide hauled water to their residents. This was supported by the Board.

D. Operations Manager Report

Weston Barlow brought soil samples from Well 22 (the deep well), from every 5 feet. A gravity formation was found which explains why the well collapsed. He presented to the board an example of the screens are the underdrains for the filter. The depth of the water is about 470-570 feet. The shallow wells stop at about 120 feet. There is hope of getting about 300 gallons per minute. There was no fracking completed. It is anticipated that the new media in the water plant will absorb the manganese oxide and radium out. The new equipment has not been installed; the flow control valves will need to be rebuilt before getting started.

The rural development involves the headworks replacement project. There is new equipment to electrofuse.

JVar Dutson asked for an update on the manhole repair project. Wells 22, Well 4 project has the WIFA project inspector scheduled for funding, which the TOCC funded. In regard to the manhole project, numbers are being put together to see what it will take. One quote was received that was quite high.

Eric thanked the Board for their support, understanding and patience as these projects move forward. There may be the need to hire temporary workers or contract with companies to complete the projects due to the workload of the current Utility employees.

Nathan Burnham mentioned the possibility of a solar project for the wells to offset the power/electrical costs. Weston responded mentioning the EPA resiliency plan of up to 72-hour of on-site generation, which the CIB funding would cover. Nathan offered to bring a quote to the Utility Department for such.

Natural gas metering station is in the works. Utility Department is waiting for State approval. The cost difference between propane and natural gas is dramatic.

#9. Consideration and Possible Action on Large Purchases

Weston presented the quote for a utility locator which would assist in blue staking and utility bed for the trucks.

JVar Dutson moved to approve the purchase of the Utility Locator for the amount of \$6,601.85 and Utility Bed for \$7,521.25.

Jason Black seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		

Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	X		
JVar Dutson	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#10. Maxwell Park Commercial Water Sales

Eric Duthie began the discussion. This matter has been a concern for quite some time, specifically Maxwell Park Water being re-sold commercially. Weston provided an outline of several possible actions that the Board could take on this matter.

Nathan presented the recommendation of putting a fill station at Maxwell Park to aide in the surge flow. He pointed out that for a whole year, the usage at the park is under \$2,000.00 a year. The “Glamping sites” pay a transient room tax, part of which is returned to the City. He proposed that the taps at Maxwell be made to where a hose cannot be connected. A metered fill station specifically for commercial uses would be installed, with a sign that asks customers to pay at the Utility Department after filling. The cost for such would be a few thousand dollars. Some customers may not pay, but there is the probability. The Park should not be affected with the removal of the hose bibs, although there may be an affect on those that cannot lift their water jugs. Customers that use the fill station would be paying a rate similar to that of a hydrant meter.

Nathan pointed out that the general complaint is that individuals do not have access to fill their personal water jugs due to the taps being utilized by these large tanks. Jason expressed his concern about the “fairness issue” rather than inconvenience of not being able to fill their jugs. Jason voiced his desire to have the fill station on Louis Street vs. Maxwell Park at a higher cost, he requested number projections for effectiveness. He supports the option to make filling the large tanks at the park illegal. It is estimated that a metered station on Louis Lane as previously discussed, the Utility Department is looking at around \$35,000.00. Nathan feels like this money would never be paid back due to the maintenance required to maintain the station.

Chairman Black expressed his opinion that the money is not the issue. The issue is that the water in Maxwell is there for the Community and the culinary customers that pay for water should have the right to go to the Park and get drinking water without waiting for these large tanks that are not necessarily paying, culinary water customers. He feels that controlling the issue of these commercial users outweighs that of the money.

There was continued discussion back and forth on the benefits and downfalls of each option. Eric suggested that the Board give Staff direction for a recommendation to the City Council.

The consensus of the Board was that the study for the Louis Lane commercial fill station be prepared for the next Utility Board Meeting. Further, the recommendation to the Hildale City Council at this time is that a tap for commercial users be provided with signage directing them to utilize such exclusively.

#11. Discussion and Possible Action on Landfill IGA RE: Administrative Fees

Mariah La Corti presented. She informed the Board that there will be discussion with the Landfill and Town of Colorado City on the possibility of greater administrative costs charged by Hildale City to the Landfill. The administrative duties of Hildale/Utility staff have increased greatly due to auditing and customer contact. This will be addressed again once all parties have had discussion.

#12. Discussion and Possible Action on CIB Projects

Jerry Postema presented a Sunrise Engineering estimate of project costs. There was a priority list that was created. Weston sat with the representative of the grant, and it was determined that all needed projects should be included into one request. The application with engineers costs is due October 1, 2021. Eric pointed out that we must have the Utility Boards recommendation to the Council for approval on this meeting in order to meet this deadline.

Jason Black moved to approve the recommendation to the Hildale City Council to move forward with the CIB project list as provided.

JVar Dutson seconded. Roll call vote:

Board Members:	Yes	No	Abstain
Haven Barlow	X		
Sterling Jessop, Jr.	X		
Arvin Black	X		
Jason Black	X		
Nathan Burnham	Not available		
JVar Dutson	X		
Michael Cawley	X		

Motion carried.

#13. Adjournment

Chairman Black assured the public that their concerns are being addressed and worked on. He invited them to attend any meetings.

JVar requested an update on fiber at next months meeting.

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

Minutes were approved at the meeting on_____.

Athena Cawley, Hildale City Recorder

Rosie White, Colorado City Town Clerk

Summary of Board Actions:

Pending Minutes - Subject to Approval