

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

October 1, 2024

The adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 1st day of October, 2024, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, CITY MANAGER MARTINEZ, UTILITY MANAGER TORRANCE AND OTHER KEY STAFF

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONER BROWN. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND MOFFITT

COMMISSIONER MOFFITT entered the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

APPROVAL COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER
AGENDA MOFFITT, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
MOFFITT, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

CORSPNDN: None

PBLC APRN: None

CNST CAL: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT requested that item #3 be pulled (California Colorado River Contractors Forbearance Agreement for 2024-2026 with the Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California).

COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOFFITT, to pull consent item #3 and approve consent calendar items 1,2,4&5.

1. Minutes of adjourned regular meeting held September 3, 2024
2. Authorize the purchase of two pumps for the Bazoobuth Lift Station from Brax at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 to be funded with Wastewater Asset Replacement funds

4. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Physical Security Exemption letter dated October 1, 2024 and to submit to the California Public Utilities Commission
5. Adopt the 2024 Needles Public Utility Authority Wildfire Mitigation Plan Version 5.0

Motion to approve item 1 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
MOFFITT AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER

Motion to approve item 2,4&5 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
MOFFITT, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

COMMISSIONER MOFFITT questioned the 35,000 acre feet of water from Coachella Valley Water District and where it will be coming from and going to. Utility Manager Torrance responded it will be coming from the Bureau of Reclamation and going to Imperial Irrigation District to disperse.

COMMISSIONER MOFFITT MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER McNEIL, to authorize the City Manager to execute the California Colorado River Contractors Forbearance Agreement for 2024-2026 with the Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to allow water to be conserved under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation conservation program to be added to Lake Mead. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
MOFFITT, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

REG ITEMS: Utility Manager Torrance explained the request for proposal (RFP) process to retain a company to do a solar energy project for a 2-3 megawatt solar system. She introduced Arlen Barksdale, PhD, Chief Technology Officer, Unisol Solar, who reviewed the 10 potential sites for such a project and the rationale for selection of each including estimated costs over the life of the project. At the conclusion, Utility Manager Torrance asked for Board acceptance of the Study noting that staff will use this document for additional Dept. of Energy applications and it may possibly generate some unsolicited proposals.

ENG EVAL & FEASBL STUDY, SOLAR ENG SITES

City Manager Martinez noted that the city/utility are a long way from the financing/funding stage of a solar project and that this is a playbook to get there. This document is for future growth. General discussion ensued on the engineering evaluation and feasibility study, funding of any future projects, cost of renewable energy credits (RECs), and impact from any solar project.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE, to accept the Engineering Evaluation & Feasibility Study, Needles Solar Energy Sites Evaluation dated August 12, 2024 as prepared by Unisol Solar Energy Solutions. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, MOFFITT, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

REPORTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged the following reports: 1)) EUSI, LLC operational support services relating to the wastewater treatment facility and collection system August 2024; and 2) Present Perfected Rights (PPR) report August 2024

MGR'S RPT: Utility Manager Torrance reported: 1) closed on the rate study request for proposals and will be on the next Board agenda to award; 2) no incidents to report; and 3) waiting for heat wave to be over so customers can see a decrease in their utility bills.

City Manager Martinez referenced his weekly manager's reports included in the packet and updated the Board on various current matters.

BRD RQSTS: COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE expressed concern with storage of water and the condition of the water tanks asking what's being done to take care of the tanks. Utility Manager Torrance explained that all the city's water tanks are inspected by a licensed contractor who goes inside the tanks and tests the integrity of the structures. She agreed to share the most recent report with the Board Members.

COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER asked when the new treatment plant would be coming online to which City Manager Martinez responded we're expecting mid-November.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 1st day of October, 2024, adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Chairman

Secretary