



Minutes

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC UTILITIES
ADMINISTRATION

**Salt Lake City
Public Utilities Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2024**

The Public Utilities Advisory Committee (PUAC) meeting was held at 7:30 am on March 28, 2024. Committee members present were Chris Shope, Tom Godfrey, Alex Lovell, Ted Boyer, Roger Player, Dani Cepernich, and Terry Marasco. Salt Lake City Public Utilities employees present were Laura Briefer, Jesse Stewart, Jason Draper, Dustin White, Tammy Wambeam, Jason Brown, Lissa Tarufelli, Jacob Jorgensen, Rusty Vetter, Karryn Greanleaf, Tamara Prue, and Janine Calfo. Others present were Nikola Lindsey, Salt Lake City Mayor's Office; Sam Owen and Tim Cosgrove, Salt Lake City Council Office; Susan Spore, Brown and Caldwell; Fritz Doster, Barr Engineering; Will Peterson, AECOM; John Richardson.

Welcome and Introductions

Laura Briefer welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

Approve Minutes of February 22, 2024, Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes of the February 22, 2024, PUAC meeting. Correction will be made to add, "Dani and Tom Godfrey recused themselves for the vote on MWDSL property tax." All members voted to approve as revised.

**Monthly Financial Report
Lisa Tarufelli, Finance Administrator**

Deferred to next meeting.

**Discussion and Approval of FY 2024-2025 Public Utilities Budget
Recommendation to the Mayor – Laura Briefer**

Laura Briefer gave a presentation of the 2024-2025 Public Utilities Budget that was prepared with input from the Public Utilities Budget Sub-Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Laura discussed the various drivers of the Public Utilities budget that include aging infrastructure, Federal and State regulations, drought, and inflationary pressures.

Lisa Tarufelli discussed the revenues, expenditures, and reserve fund transfers as presented in the proposed budget. Laura discussed the budget revenue insights across for the Water Utility Budget. Alex Lovell expressed concern about the rate stabilization fee for $\frac{3}{4}$ inch meters and the potential impact for lower income residents. Laura responded that there could be more discussion before the budget is sent to the Mayor's office.

The Sewer Utility Budget reflects the estimated project cost for the Water Reclamation Facility. The new budget proposes a decrease of 42.8 percent when compared to the FY24 amended budget. A rate stabilization fee proposed for the new fiscal year.

The Stormwater Utility Budget has a proposed rate increase of 10 percent. Increases between 5 and 10 percent are anticipated in future years through FY 2029. Proposed capital improvements include nearly \$12.3 million to renovate portions of the stormwater collection system. The budget reflects a proposed bond issuance of \$5M.

The Street Lighting Utility Budget has a proposed rate increase of 10 percent. A general fund transfer of \$20,000 is planned to maintain the private lights program.

Terry Marasco asked about the budget for a new Public Utilities campus plan. Laura responded that the existing main campus was constructed in the 1970s. There have been significant increases in personnel and operations as well as changes in building codes since the campus was constructed. Land has been purchased in another location and is being evaluated to potentially site a future new Public Utilities campus.

Tom Godfrey asked if there is an alternative budget that will be proposed if the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy proposed certified tax rate increase is not adopted by the Salt Lake City and Sandy City Councils. Laura responded that there are two versions of the budget prepared for both scenarios.

Alex Lovell expressed his request for equitable solutions for proposed rate increases and concern about programs like the Salvation Army for customer assistance. He asked the department to explore potential micro grants that might be able to provide more diverse options for customer assistance.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend the presented budget to Mayor Mendenhall. All members voted to approve the motion.

Water Supply Update

Tabled to next meeting.

Public Comment

None.

**Meeting adjourned at 09:12 am.
Next meeting will be April 25th at 7:30 am**

